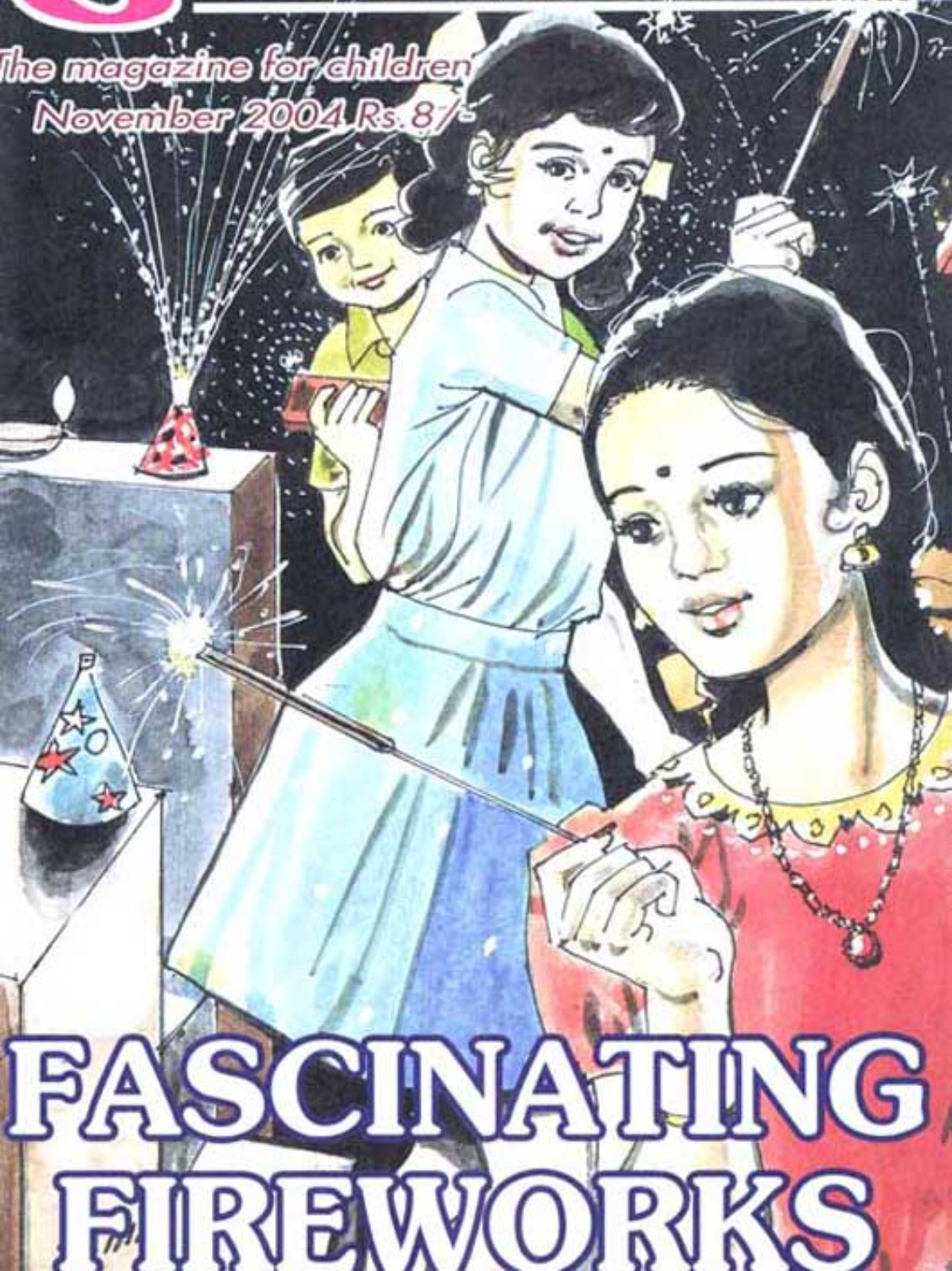


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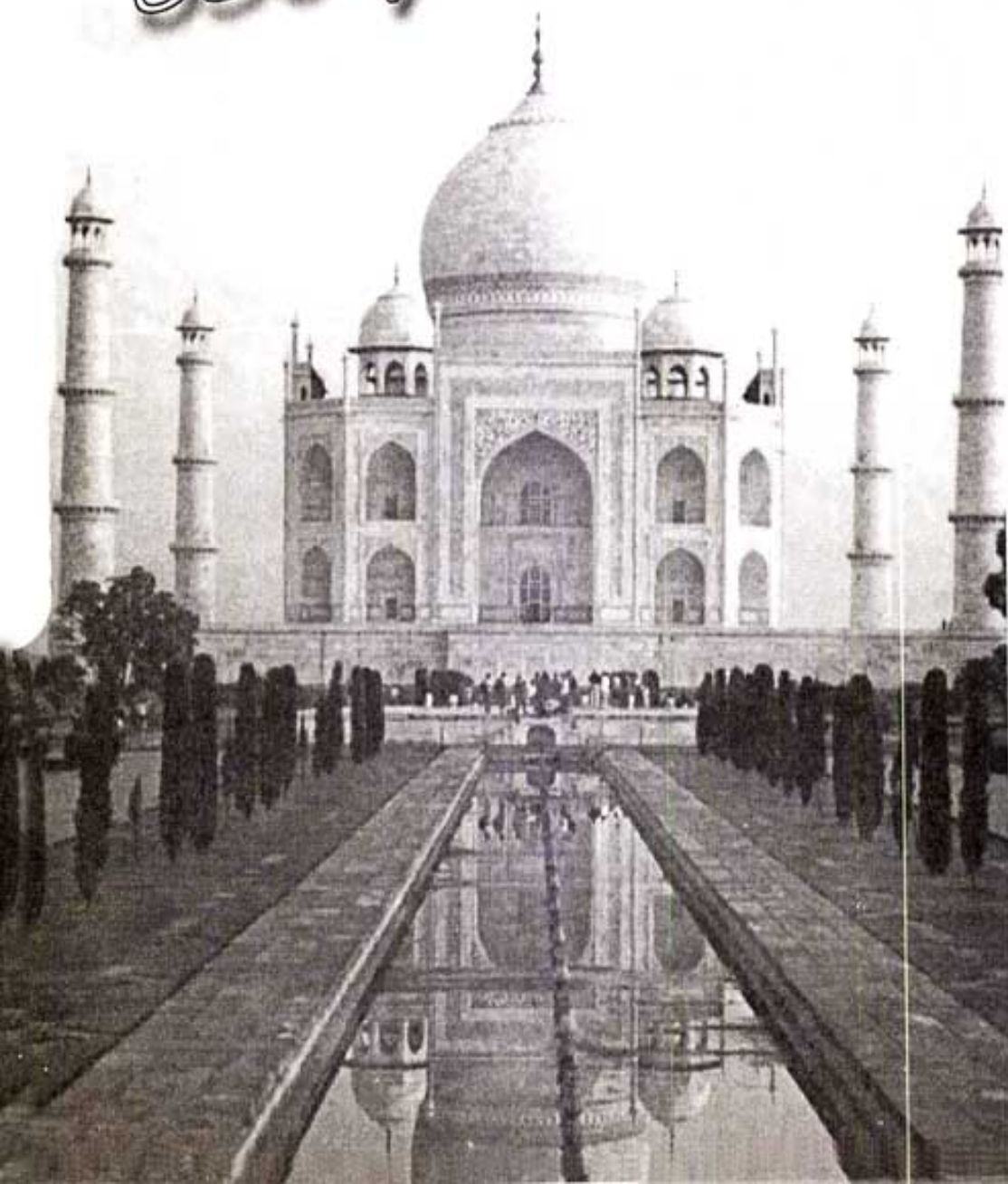
The magazine for children

November 2004 Rs. 8/-



FASCINATING FIREWORKS

*Taj Mahal is
350 years old!*



18



Jayabalan Story -Mercury not rising

CRACKERS 40-41 -DIWALI BOARD GAME



POTTER CONJECTURE

44



GOKULAM

NOVEMBER 2004

Vol. XVII, No.5

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.

-William Canton

NEW PICTURE SERIAL

MOM, DEAR MOM!

25



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The Magazine for Children

A THOUGHT FOR DIWALI DAY

Dear Reader...

There is a lot of awareness today about the noise, dirt and smoke pollution caused by Diwali crackers. Children have also begun to think of the child labour involved in some of the fireworks factories. Many of these factories now try to avoid child labour and the criticism that goes with it.

But child labour is not restricted to fireworks factories. Take a look around you and you will find children working in constructions sites, hotels, shops, tea stalls etc. Many

are employed as vendors and rag pickers. The situation is really sad.



It is wrong to employ child labour and the employers are certainly to be blamed. But why do the children come to work? Why do their parents allow them to become school drop outs?

The answer is: Poverty. The family needs the income brought in by the children to augment the parents' earnings. It is as simple as that.

So, the real remedy lies in alleviating poverty through better and increased employment opportunities. Think about it, for, the future of India has to be shaped by you.

- Editor

We have heard of match-fixing. Now it is accusation of "election fixing" in the Presidential election for the Board of Control for Cricket in India or B.C.C.I. Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar as well as Mahendra contested for the Presidentship. There was a tie, and the retiring President of B.C.C.I., Dalmiya, utilised his casting vote to get Mahendra elected. This would have been alright except for the fact that one Agashe was not permitted to vote at all! Whether the reason given for the ban was valid, has become the bone of contention and the entire matter is now before the Supreme Court.

The Congress Party retained power in Arunachal Pradesh, winning 34 seats in the 60 member assembly. The B.J.P. won only 9 seats. Mr. Gegong Apang became the Chief Minister once again. But there is also a lot of inner party squabbles and rivalries. Mr. Apang had earlier left the Congress and even joined hands with the B.J.P. to form a coalition government and was the caretaker Chief Minister when the assembly was dissolved by the Governor. Later he



* Sharad Pawar



* Dalmiya



* Gegong Apang

came back into the Congress fold. Now he has a comfortable majority but it is feared that dissidence may raise its ugly head once again.

In the Maharashtra assembly elections, the Congress - N.C.P. combine has a comfortable majority. But which party will bag the Chief Ministership? The N.C.P. or Nationalist Congress party headed by Sharad Pawar has won a couple of more seats than the Congress and rightfully claims the top post for it-

ELECTIONS FAIR AND FOUL!

self. But the Congress has other calculations. Talks are going on between the leaders of both parties and it can be expected that a settlement would have been reached before this issue of Gokulam is in the hands of readers. But why can't the leader of the alliance parties be democratically elected by the M.L.A.s themselves? Why should the leadership be imposed on the M.L.As by the party high command in Delhi? The question remains unanswered!

In recognition of her achievements in the field of magic and music and for creating social awareness, Aarthi Mangala of Thanjavur has been selected as one of the Silver medallists for the National Child Achievers Award (2003) announced by the HRD ministry of the Government of India.

'Gokulam' interviewed her.



MAGIC KID

Congratulations Aarthi. We are all fascinated by 'magic', 'abracadabra' and "Hey Presto" Were you inspired by any magician? Who is your favourite magician?

Yes Many magicians including Dr.Alex, P.C.Sorcar and my gurus, Raja of T.N.Science Forum, Prof.Ramachandran and Ganesh.

When and how did you get interested in Magic? When did you give your first public performance?

On Jan 12th 1999, when I was in my second standard, Founders Day

function was to be held in my school. That day I told my father that I would like to do something different. Not the usual songs and dances. He casually asked me, if I would be interested in magic. I nodded. He rushed to the trade fair and bought me some magic props and trained me. I performed well although for only a few minutes. My Principal encouraged me. Mr. Raja of Tamilnadu Science Forum trained me.

My first Public performance (other than at school) was at the state Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Trichy where even IAS officials were present.

How old are you?

I am twelve.
(D . O . B -
31.10.92)

When other magicians perform, they have many props, sound and light effects. How about your shows?

I am a budding magician and have a few props. I rely mainly on my presentation skills such as body language, presence of mind, timing etc., I start my shows by singing a verse from the 'Thirukkural'. I use theme based lyrics from national integration songs, movie songs, jingles etc., to suit the theme.

I believe you offer scientific explanations at the end of each trick and

also warn people against tricksters. How did you think up this novel idea?

I got this idea from my parents and some volunteers of Tamil Nadu Science Forum who try to create social awareness. My shows are packed with entertainment and I do theme based presentations.

Doesn't it spoil the thrill for the audience? Does your audience consist of mainly adults or children?

No. The thrill is not spoilt because although I do give scientific explanations for gimmicks used to exploit the rural public, I don't give explanations for the magic tricks I perform. My audience consists of people from all walks of life, but mostly women and children.



• Anti - Gravity

How many shows have you performed?

In around 60 places. I've performed amidst the rural public, school children, inmates of Juvenile Home, birthday and marriage parties, in popular TV

channels etc. If Gokulam organizes a function for its readers, I'll be happy to do a show!

Which language do you use?

Mostly Tamil. I speak English too. Sometimes it's a combination of languages, occasionally Hindi.

In small places, do people feel shocked or happy when you give scientific explanations?

Advertisements may indirectly suggest that the product will magically transform a person. For eg. fairness cream or tooth paste. A lot of people get influenced by these ads. I use my



shows to promote social awareness. People are usually surprised. A few of them ask for detailed clarifications. Sometimes I can see mixed expressions or con-

templation on their faces.

Do you have shows during the week or only on weekends and holidays?

Studies are my priority. So holidays and weekends are convenient. But on special occasions when I have to miss school, my teachers permit me and even encourage me in my activities.

What is your favourite subject in school? Science?

No. Science comes after languages, English and Tamil.

Apart from magic and music, what

are your hobbies?

I read books, dance, sing, play computer games and watch movies. I have been appearing in T.V. Commercials and doing short telefilms on social issues. My articles on simple magic tricks have appeared in a Tamil Children's magazine. My audio CD on Avvaiyar's devotional songs has been released.

You have performed in many places and met many people. Is there any particular incident which you can remember?

Once I was performing at a Juvenile Home, the inmates started calling me 'akka' (elder sister) and 'thankachi' (younger sister). I was thrilled since I don't have siblings. Sometimes I have to deal with heckling children at my shows. I get them to help me on stage. Surprisingly, they turn out to be great assistants!

What are your plans for the future?

Probably nursing or I will go in for arts and multi media communication (not engineering). May be in the next five years I'll make up my mind. Ofcourse, I'd like to excel in MAGIC and take part in the international magic compe-



tition and convention (in June 2005) organised by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, St.Louis, USA. It is the world's largest professional body for magicians of which I am a proud member. I have already started preparing for this event and am looking for sponsors. I also like to model for

commercials.

Have you received any other awards? Who nominated you for this award?

My most precious award is the standing ovation I receive from my audience! The District social welfare officer suggested that the State should submit a nomination for the National Child award. The papers were forwarded by the Dept. of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu Government.

When and where will you receive this award? Are you terribly excited?

I was really excited when I saw my name in the newspapers and heard the radio news. I do hope that I'll receive the award from President Abdul Kalam. I am expecting a letter anytime, from the HRD ministry giving the date and venue of the function. Naturally, it will be a thrilling moment!

We at Gokulam will be looking forward to watching on T.V. the silver medal being presented to you, All the best!



GOKULAM

The magazine for children

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In a village, there lived a couple with their only son, Nishu. They were poor and worked hard but they never complained. They gave Nishu the best education that they could afford. Nishu did well at school.

Their village had the ruins of a fort of the erstwhile rulers. Nishu used to loiter around there in his free time, in the fond hope of finding some hidden treasures. One day, he noticed a small hole in the wall and decided to investigate near it. But all his efforts were in vain. He just found an ordinary looking pencil. At least he had

kept it on his table.

Nishu was fond of drawing. One day, he tried out his, "treasure" pencil. He drew an ice-cream and a bicycle. To his amazement, they both were in front of him! He rubbed his eyes and saw again. Yes! They were real. Nishu realised that this was a

NISHU'S MAGIC PENCIL



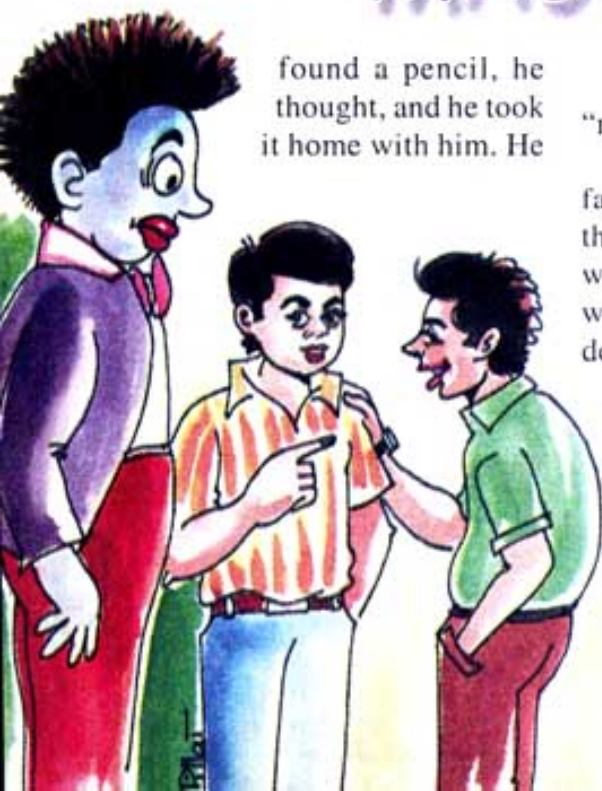
found a pencil, he thought, and he took it home with him. He

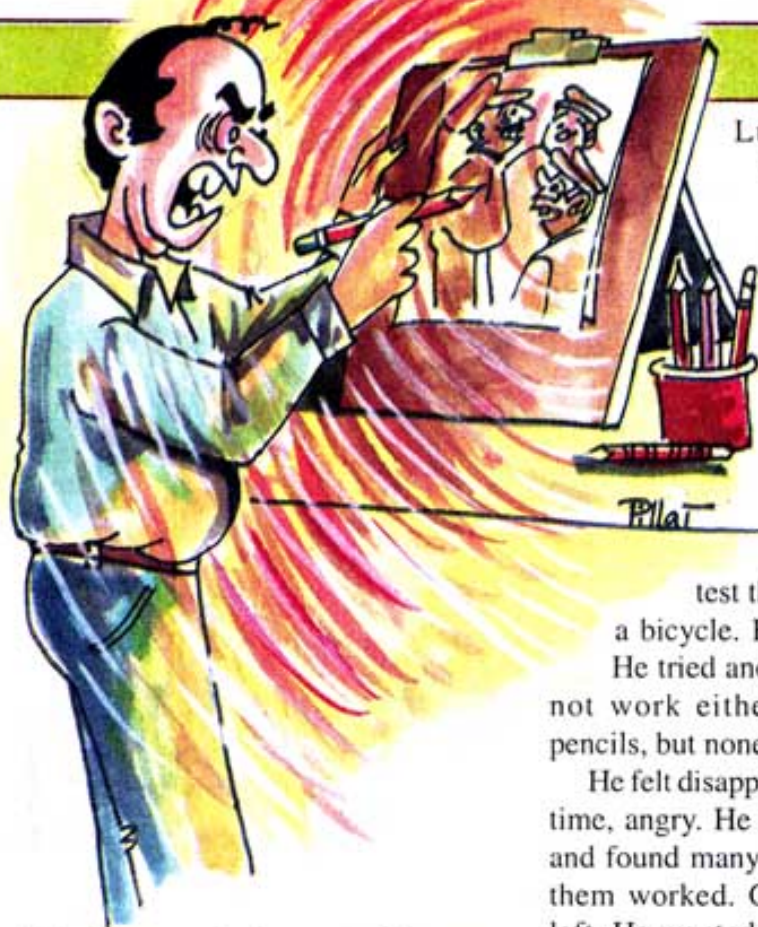
"magic"pencil.

Thanks to the magic pencil his family became the richest family in that village. Some people, however were jealous of them and their wealth. Peeshu was one of them. He decided to somehow find out their secret. He had a brainwave.

He sent his son, who was Nishu's good friend, to his place with a golliwog.

He had placed two small cameras in the eyes and two sound recorders in the ears of the golliwog. Peeshu had sent





Luckily for Peeshu, there was no one in the house.

He made his way to Nishu's room, grabbed a pencil from his table and was about to come out, when he had a doubt. He wanted to

test the pencil. So he drew a bicycle. But it did not appear. He tried another pencil. That did not work either. He tried all the pencils, but none of them worked.

He felt disappointed and at the same time, angry. He searched everywhere and found many pencils but none of them worked. Only one pencil was left. He wanted to break it, but controlled his impatience and angrily drew three policemen with guns on a paper. Lo and behold! Three policemen appeared before him! But alas! They arrested him and put him in jail.

When Nishu's family arrived and heard everything, they had a hearty laugh. At the same time they were relieved that Peeshu had not stolen anything from their house. Most importantly the magic pencil!

They lived happily ever after.

- Ch. Nishant, Std VIII,
Brilliant Grammar High School,
Hyderabad

it to discover their secret. By means of an aerial wireless system, the cameras and recorders conveyed the information to Peeshu's laptop. Peeshu found out their secret.

He set off for Nishu's house that night. A dog was guarding the house while the watchman was asleep.

Peeshu threw some nice, juicy bones to the dog and it settled down to chew them.

**PRIZE
WINNING
STORY**

Grandmaworm



Dear Grandmaworm,

Suggest a way by which I can spend time on reading novels as well as text books.

- J. Sowmya Prabha, Coimbatore

Dear Sowmya,

The best way to find time for all

your work and relaxation is to prepare a time table. The timetable should vary from Sunday to Saturday and should not be a dull routine, though some things like breakfast time has to be constant. Spend some time on preparing such an interesting time table, adhere to it and you will find that life is more enjoyable than what it is now.

I feel sleepy while the class is going on and also while I am studying at home. Please help me to overcome this problem.

- Bharathi, KG.F.

Dear Bharathi,

Children need eight hours sleep at night. they also need to exercise well to get deep sleep and not to keep tossing and turning in bed. This will keep them wide awake and alert during day time. If you still feel sleepy after fol-



lowing the above advice it means you are physically weak and need nourishment.

You have to consult a doctor. One other reason for feeling sleepy during class hours is that you are feeling bored with your lessons. I can't cre-

ate the interest for you in your lessons. Your teachers and parents will have to help you, by guiding you in the proper manner, without scolding you!

I live in Chennai, My parents and I do not know Hindi. I wan't to



MONITOR

learn spoken Hindi. How should I go about it?

- Michel Ranjit Singh

Dear Michel,

Why not visit the Hindi Prachar Sabha in T.Nagar and find out how they can help you? They are also listed in the telephone directory. It is a famous landmark and you cannot miss it once you are in T. Nagar.

My teacher and mother say that I have a girlish nature. I also don't like sports but my father forces me to play. What is



the solution to this problem?

- P. Ranjeeth kumar,

Secunderabad

Dear Ranjeeth,

It is unfair to say

that you have a girlish nature just

because you don't like sports. It is unfair to the fairer sex as well, since so many girls make a mark in sports. If you don't like sports, it may be because you are weak and need a nour-

..Nobody Listens!



with them. But if they do misbehave, tell them that you have no other choice except to inform the teacher about it next time. Having given them a warning if they still indulge in mischief, write their names on the black board. After all, you have a duty to perform

as monitor. Make this clear to them and seek their cooperation.

I don't like to eat green vegetables. But my mother forces me. What can I do?

- Himanshi Sahu,
Chattisgarh

Dear Himanshi,

Eating green vegetables

is good for you. It is an absolute must for healthy growth. Your mom is just helping you.

DISOBEYED

ishing diet. Consult your doctor. Remember good exercise is necessary for an active life and growth of both mind and body.

I am the class monitor. But nobody listens to me or cares to obey me. But I don't want to complain to our class teacher. What do I do?

- T. Ramya,
Kalpakkam

Dear Ramya,

You will have to win over your colleagues with love as well as strictness. Don't be too harsh or unreasonable



But be sure you take cooked vegetables and not raw, unless ofcourse, your mom is sure of the purity of the water she uses for washing the vegetables.

Love,
Grandmaworm

MUMBAI CITY SPECIAL!!



ATTENTION MUMBAI READERS!
THE GOKULAM NEW YEAR ISSUE (JAN. 2005)
WILL BE A "MUMBAI SPECIAL"

Here is an opportunity to showcase your city. Making it re... a...lly interesting is entirely upto you!

Send us Mumbai based articles, recipes, poems, experiences, stories etc. Enclose pictures wherever possible. Superscribe your entry with "MUMBAI SPECIAL" and mail them to us.

Hurry! Last date : **24.11.2004**

During Diwali my friends in the colony and I have a good time for at least a week. We pool our crackers together and burst them every evening. We even go shopping for clothes together. Our colony's Association organises contests during this period and we try to win prizes. We help our mothers make sweets and also buy some sweets from the shops. On Diwali night our colony is lit up with beautiful lights. This is how we plan, to enjoy our Diwali this year too.

- A. Srinivas,
Std VIII,
SBOA (M)
Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai

Diwali will soon be here and I plan to celebrate it in a unique way. Sweets and clothes are always there. But, crackers, NO! I'm going to use the money saved to buy gifts for the orphanage nearby. And what do I get in return? Radiant smiles, enough to spread the light of Diwali everywhere!

- Ruth Muriel D'silva,
Std XI,
Thomas Baptista High School
& Junior College,
Mumbai

I want Deepavali to be an eco-friendly festival without crackers. Schools may help by getting students to take an oath that they would not burst crackers. 'Deepa' means lamp and 'Vali' means rows. So let us decorate



Diwali-Traditional Yet Modern!

our homes with lamps, wear new clothes and eat delicacies. For those of you who want loud sounds, here is a suggestion. Go into a closed room, blow air into plastic or paper covers and smash them! It might sound silly, but at least it will not affect anybody's ears. Human ears can put up with 80 decibels (sound) and the sound of crackers is about 140 decibels.

- M. Sneha, Std VIII,
St.Anne's High School,
Bangalore

Diwali is a colourful festival for all Indians, not only Hindus. The air resounds with crackers and the home smells of flowers and incense. All family members get together on Diwali evenings for the Lakshmi Puja and mega feast! To me Diwali means Prayer, Prosperity and Happiness!

**-H.V.Sadana,
Bangalore**

“Dam-doom-dab dab!” The usual Diwali sounds in our country. I feel the traditional or religious prac-

tice of bursting crackers should be given up by us, the modern citizens of India. Keeping in mind the high pollution rates in our country we should avoid polluting the air further during Diwali. I propose to curtail my spending on crackers and instead help the poor. Won't you too?

**- Aditya Venkatraman, Std IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Kolkata**

We will be spending Diwali with my grandparents who have moved into an apartment. I already have around fifteen friends there. We have planned to celebrate Diwali in a special way. We

are painting greeting cards and pooling

our crackers together and plan to burst them starting

three days before

Diwali. We will also decorate the apartments with lamps. On Diwali day we



QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Should schools have a uniform dress code (school uniforms)? Or, should they leave it to the discretion of the students and their parents?

Send us your views by 12.11.04. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

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will visit the temple and then distribute sweets to all the neighbours.

**- Sneha V. Nathan, Std VI,
Hari Sri Vidya Nilhi School,
Thrissur, Kerala**

This year too, I will decorate my home with candles and share sweets with my friends. I will distribute my old clothes to my poor brethren for whom these clothes would be new. I want them to have a happy Diwali too!

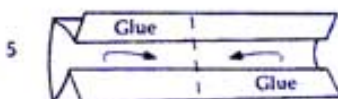
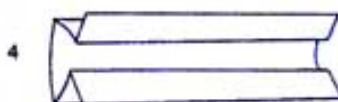
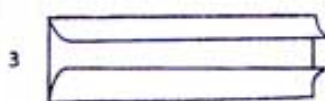
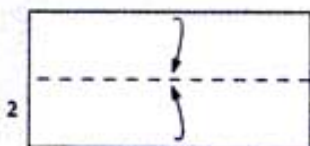
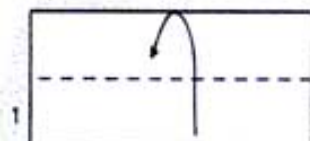
Diwali is the festival of lights and not sounds! Decorated with lamps our houses would look like the Golden Temple of Amritsar but with crackers it would sound like a welding unit! Let's enjoy this festival with

lights only.

**- Mainak Chakraborty,
Std VIII, St. Paul's School,
Rourkela**

I plan to have my usual crackers, sweets and new clothes but at the same time visit an orphanage or the handicapped and share these goodies with them. We don't have to sacrifice everything for these children. Just sharing will give them a lot of joy. Let us try to emulate Baby Palak and her brother and in our own small way let us help those who need our help. I wish all the 'large-hearted' amongst Gokulam readers a very Happy Diwali!

**- K Udhaya, Std IX,
St. Joseph's MHSS. Madurai**



ward to our visit. But by the time you go to bed, we are forgotten and cast aside.

Did you know that we are made by chopping down trees? How wasteful it is if you do not reuse us.

Here is an activity you can pursue:

Materials required:

Any two joint pages of a newspaper, glue and a stapler.

Method: Fold the newspaper sheet as shown.

Apply glue on the two folds and stick them as shown in step



AVOID WASTE, REUSE PAPER

AN OLD NEWSPAPER SPEAKS:

KIDS! My friends and I visit your homes every morning. Everyone looks for-

5. Staple the glued portions and your bag is ready.

Plastic is non-biodegradable whereas bags using us are eco friendly.



If you don't save Gas,
you won't be able to enjoy
anything.

Ask Mumy to cook food in pressure cooker, take wide & shallow containers for cooking and use small burner to save gas.

Petroleum Conservation Research Association
Samrakshan Bhawan, 10, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110066.



Write a slogan on Gas Conservation and Win Prizes.

LA Mercantile

*Try out these simple recipes.
Give your family members a
sweet surprise this DIWALI.*

DRY FRUITS LADDU

Ingredients:

Cashewnut - 50grams. (powdered)
Badam - 50 grams (powdered)
Pista - 50 grams (powdered)
Dates - 50 grams
Raisins - 25 grams
Cardamom - 8
(powdered)

Method: Re-

move the seeds
from the dates. Wash raisins and dates. Add to the powdered nuts. Add cardamom powder and blend well. Make small laddus out of the mixture. Dry fruits laddu is very tasty and nutritious too!

- S. Varsha,
Std V, P.S.Sr.Sec. School,
Chennai.

CHOCO POCO

Ingredients:

Marie Biscuits - 1 pkt. (finely
crushed)
Cocoa powder - 3 tsp
Sugar - 4 tsp.
Dry fruits - for decoration.

Hot water - $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup

Method: Add sugar to biscuit and cocoa powder. Blend with hot water. Make balls out of this mixture and decorate with dry fruits. Serve Chilled from the refrigerator.

- Queena S.D'Souza,
Std IX,
St. Ann's High School,
Mangalore



1-2-3-4 BURFI

Ingredients:

1 cup - Ghee, 2 cups - milk, 3 cups
- grated coconut, 4 cups - sugar. Mix
all the ingredients in a pan and boil
until it thickens. Transfer to a greased
plate and cool. Cut into burfis.

- B. Kavitha,
Hyr B.Tech,
Kalavai,
T.N.

A Jayabalan Story

King Jayabalan was chatting with some of his ministers when Ayalaan, the minister for foreign affairs, came to see him. Ayalaan was just back from one of his frequent trips abroad.

"Well, well, so you are back!" said the king, and then he looked at the man who had come in with Ayalaan. He raised his eyebrows questioningly.

"Your Majesty," said Ayalaan. "This is the famous Italian artist, Impasto. He is on a tour, and I persuaded him to stay here for a few days."

"I am sure he is most welcome" said Sigainasam, the home minister grinning widely.

Impasto had long hair and a beard, and was dressed in a cloak and a cape.

He came forward, and suddenly knelt before the king, took the king's hand in his and kissed it. King Jayabalan almost leapt out of his seat as he pulled his hand away.

"Your Majesty, this is a custom in their country" said Ayalaan.

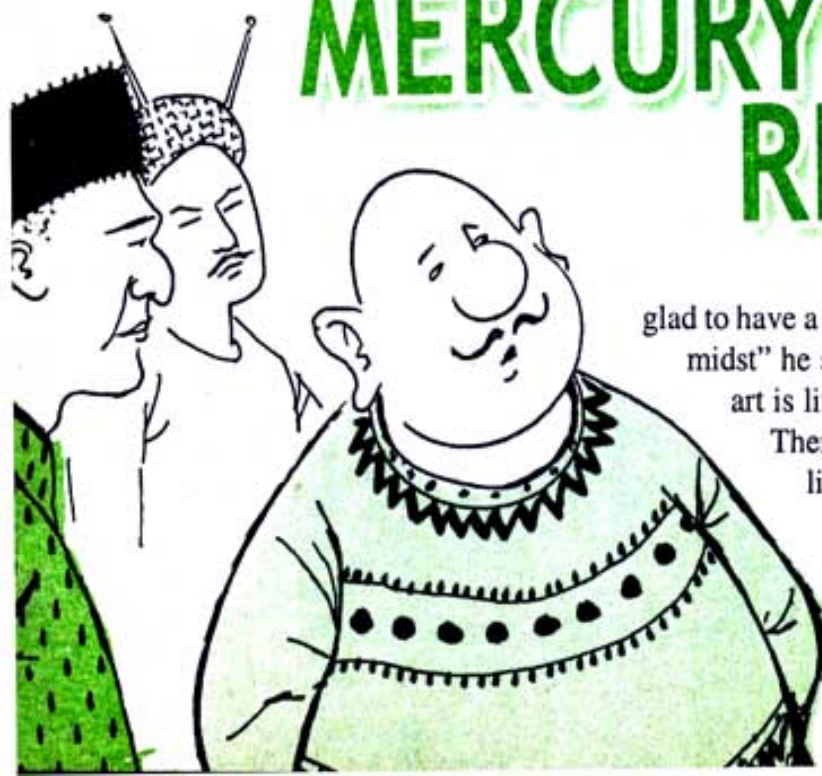
"Oh, I see...! Allright" the king said. Flustered.

"He thought perhaps the artist was going to swallow his ring" said Varisumai, the finance minister, to Ayalaan in a low whisper.

"Or maybe he thought the artist was a cannibal and would bite off a few fingers" Ayalaan whispered back.

Solmannan, the minister for publicity, rose and cleared his throat. "We are

MERCURY NOT RISING



glad to have a famous artist in our midst" he said. "As we know, art is life and life is an art.

There is no art without life and no life without art. The splash of paint on the canvas is but a reflection of the colourful lives

that we can lead..."

"Solmannan, I'll have you splashed on a canvas if you don't shut up" said the king, and Solmannan shut up at once.

"Impasto is a left-hander" Ayalaan said. "And you will notice he has six fingers in his left hand."

Everyone crowded around the artist to look at his hand, which indeed had six fingers.

"This gives him a firmer hold of the brush, and more vigour to his strokes" Ayalaan said.

"What kind of painting does he do?" asked Tholaipesi, the minister for communication.

"He specializes in portraits" said Ayalaan. "He

has painted the portraits of several kings and noblemen."

"In that case, he should perhaps do a painting of Our Majesty here" said Sigainasam, giving an oily look at the king. The king beamed and looked around at everyone.

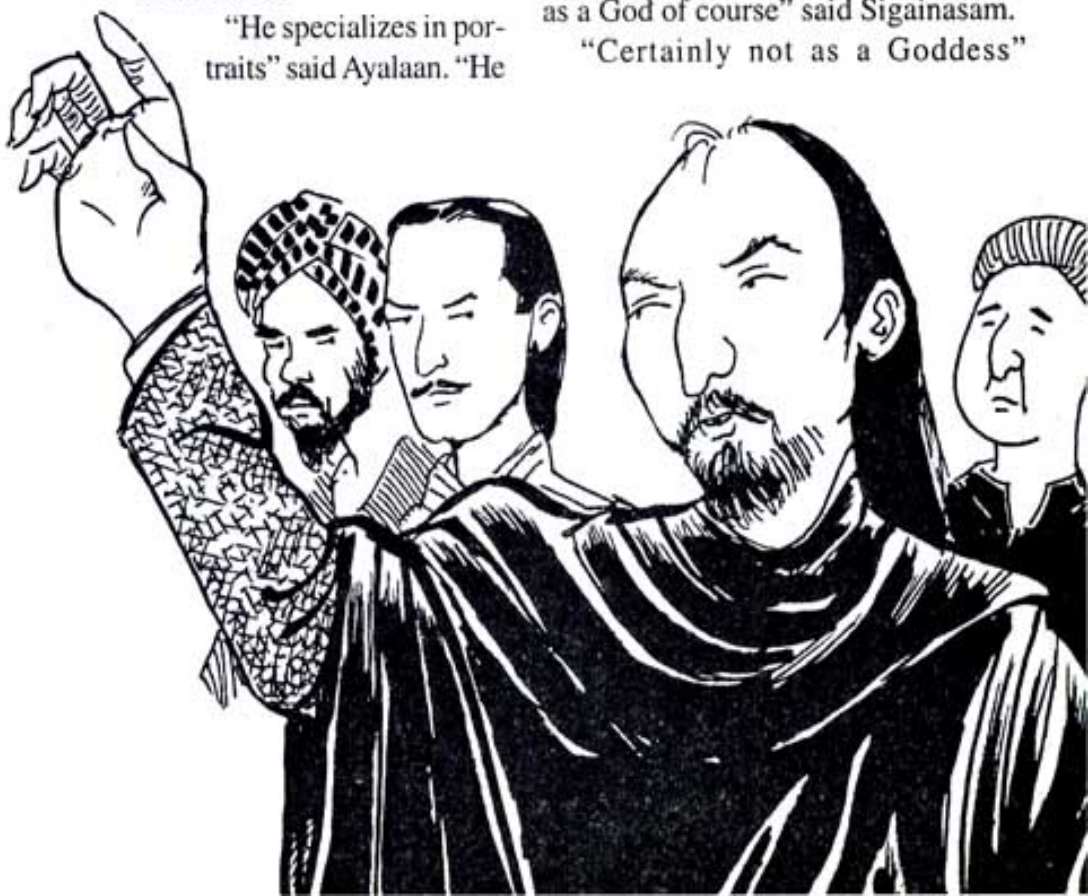
"The new trend is to paint royalty as figures from mythology" said Impasto.

"What is that?" the king wanted to know.

"It is about their Gods and Goddesses" explained Arivili, the minister for education.

"His Majesty will have to be painted as a God of course" said Sigainasam.

"Certainly not as a Goddess"





next trip to Italy" Ayalaan said
 "Which God will you paint me as?" the king asked eagerly.

"Well, there is Bacchus, the God of wine. He is usually portrayed as very fat and with a bulging stomach."

"That will not be suitable for our king" said Sigainasam grandly.

The artist looked surprised.

"The artist wouldn't need much imagination to paint our king as Bacchus" Ayalaan whispered to Varisumai.

"What about other Gods?" Solmannan asked.

"There is Pan, the God of the woods."

"How about some civilized Gods?" asked Ganabadi, the minister for heavy industry, as he broke into chuckles that shook his body violently.

"How about Cupid, the God of love?" Impasto asked. The king and his ministers looked at each other, smiling and nodding.

"Cupid is usually portrayed without any clothes on" Impasto went on.

"No clothes?" the king asked, shocked. "Well, I don't think... I mean..." and he blushed red.

"Something more dignified would suit His Majesty" said Sigainasam stiffly.

"Then may be Mercury would be more suitable. He is the messenger of the Gods. He is slim and athletic, and moves faster than the wind. He has wings on his sandals."

The king was glowing with plea-

Varisumai whispered to Ayalaan.

"What Gods do you have in mind?" Sigainasam asked the artist.

"Well, I have painted the king of Transylvania as Zeus, the king of all Gods, and the king of Spain as Mars, the God of War."

"Are there any Gods left?" asked Solmannan.

"Hundreds and hundreds" the artist said.

"Can you do a portrait of our king as some God?" Varisumai asked.

"I can collect the painting during my

sure. He liked to see himself as slim and nimble.

"Won't that be incongruous?" Arivili asked. The king glared at him, and Arivili subsided.

"Well, Mercury it shall be" said Sigainasam, sensing the king's eagerness. "You can start the sketching this evening."

A tight-fitting costume was made quickly, and the king thrust himself into it with great enthusiasm. He held a kind of staff that was supposed to be carried by Mercury. And the drawing session began.

The king was made to stand on a

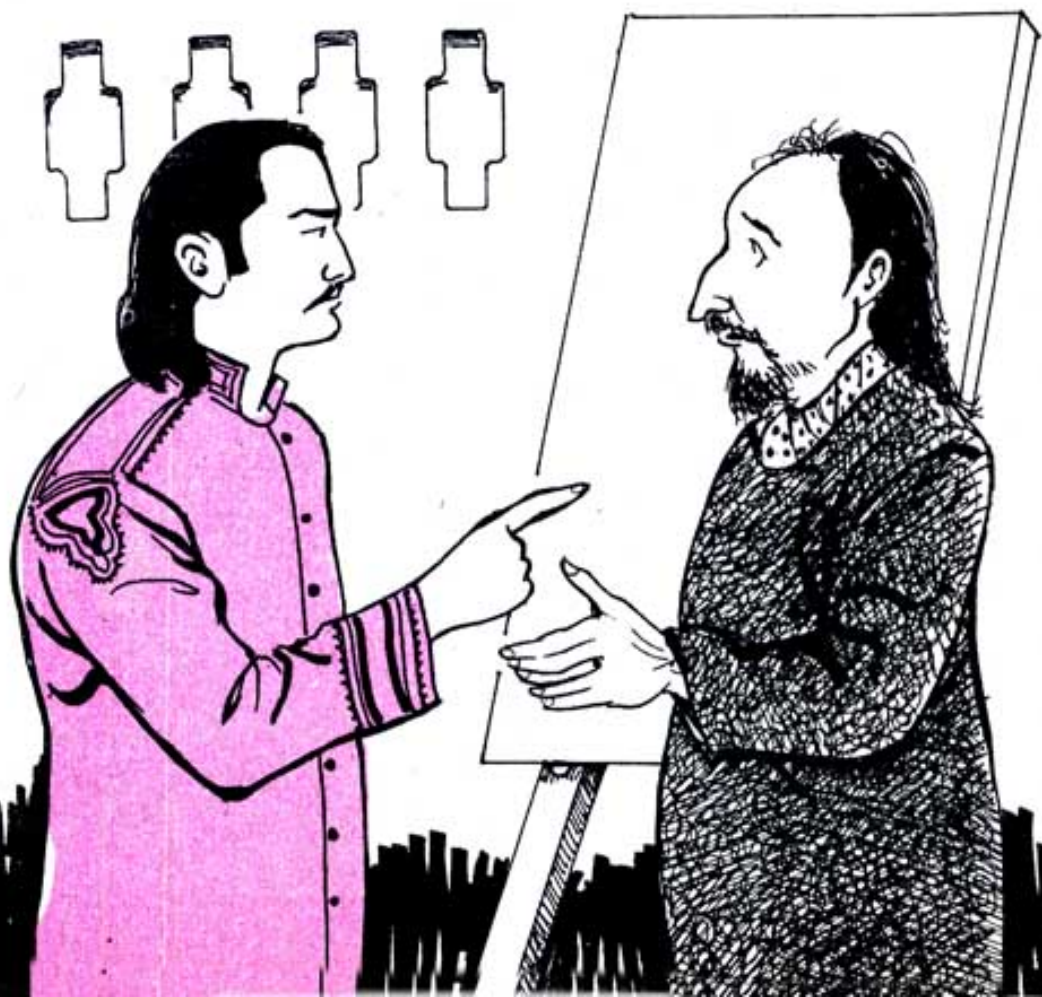
stool with one foot placed on a higher table, giving the impression he was rising into the air on one of his flights.

The artist made a few very fast sketches. But contrary to the expectations of the king and his ministers, he drew the king as he was, fat and pot-bellied.

Sigainasam who was watching the artist at work, hemmed and hawed, and finally said, "I thought Mercury was slim and athletic."

"Mercury was. But your king isn't" the artist said in a low voice to Sigainasam.

"Yes... but... can't you..."



"I paint what I see" said Impasto bluntly. And that was that.

The sketching was over in a few hours. It was arranged that Ayalaan would visit the artist in Italy and collect the finished painting...

There was a grand dinner for the artist, and then he left Jayabalpore.

About a month later Ayalaan was starting on his trip, and came to bid goodbye to the king and other ministers.

"Don't forget to collect the painting" the king said earnestly.

"Bring it carefully" said Sigainasam. "See that it is properly packed and made waterproof."

When Ayalaan reached Italy, he made a beeline for Impasto's studio. "Is the painting ready?" he asked eagerly.

Impasto looked embarrassed. "Well, it was ready" he said, struggling to

bring out the words. "But... but I got a very good offer for it, and I sold it."

"What" Ayalaan shouted. "Who did you sell it to?"

"A health food company. they have a tonic that they wanted to promote. They liked this painting very much. So..."

"What tonic?" Ayalaan asked, gritting his teeth.

"It is a tonic to give energy to people who are overweight. It is called Fatomalt."

"Alright, so you have made your money" Ayalaan said. "But don't ever show your face in Jayabalpore hereafter."

And when Ayalaan came back, he told the king and the ministers that he couldn't find Impasto since he had left the country.

And so Mercury never rose.

CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Dear Children,

Here's an opportunity for your parents. Get them to contribute to the '**Parents' Page**'. Remember! This page is exclusive to parents of Gokulam Readers.

As for our young readers, you may cover a special event taking place in your school. Get your coverage certified by your school principal or class teacher and mail it to '**School Slot**'.



Write to : Gokulam,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 097

FOR FRIENDLY MISSIVES.



Name : **Sreena Gopinathan Nair**

Age : 10

Address : Savali Flat No-8, Vadawali section, Ambarnath(E), Thane, Maharashtra

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and books, singing, dancing, drawing, chatting with friends, listening to music and watching T.V.

Name : **C. Sanjeev Krishnan**

Age : 12

Address : Sanjeev Villa, Shakthi Hospital Poovalur Road, Lalgudi, Trichy-621 601

Hobbies : Watching T.V, reading story books, listening to music.

Name : **Shasya Desai**

Age : 14

Address : Flat 33, Vaikunth Complex, Gotri Road, Vadodara, Gujarat - 390 021

Hobbies : Reading, writing, dancing, watching T.V and movies, surfing the net.

Name : **V.Varsha**

Age : 14

Address : 3/6 E 3/1, 'Sri Vinusha',

Ashok Nagar III St, Narasothipatti, Salem-4

Hobbies : Singing, drawing, handicraft making, reading Gokulam and Harry Potter.

Name :

Prinsha Sunnassee

Age : 11

Address : Tagore lane, L'Escalier, Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean

Hobbies : Reading books, playing badminton, watching T.V, drawing, collecting post cards, swimming, reading Gokulam.

Name : **Vamshi**

Age : 11



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school,**



Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2005, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

Address : H.No.S2 C III, Sachivalaya Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad - 500 070

Hobbies : Playing cricket, watching television, reading Gokulam, cycling, making friends, singing, writing, dancing, gardening.

Name : **G.V.Ajay Kumar**

Age : 15

Address : Yamuna - 2, NRJC, 313004, Bhramadevam, Nellore - 524 346

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, collecting stamps and coins, cutting of radium stickers and collecting amazing facts.

Name : **A.Arthi**

Age : 11

Address : 12, 'Srinivas', Karuppaswamy Nagar, Karthik Nagar, Sauripalayam Road, Puliakulam, Coimbatore - 641028

Hobbies : Gardening, singing, dancing, computer games, reading, making friends, listening to music.

Name : **S.Anand**

Age : 14

Address : 21/388 (2) Darshana Nagar, Venekkarra, Palakkad - 678 004.

Hobbies : Reading, watching T.V, coin collection.

Name : **Vivek C.Vijayan**

Age : 13

Address : Mathru Nulaya, 2nd Main, 1st left, Munigalappa Gardens, Kammanahalli Main Road, Maruthi Sevanagar, P.O.Bangalore - 560 033.

Hobbies : Bird watching, sightseeing, playing chess, reading books and surfing the net.

MOM, DEAR MOM!

Story: Vandu Mama

Illustration: Mahesh

PROLOGUE

Fate played havoc in her life. Leaving her behind with a one year old babe in her arms, her husband died young. She was a very pretty and strong willed lady. She

baby," Vasantha said and left for her tryst with destiny.

Vasantha's beauty and talent helped her attain stardom. She became a famous film star. Although she could not forget her baby, she couldn't retrieve her child either.

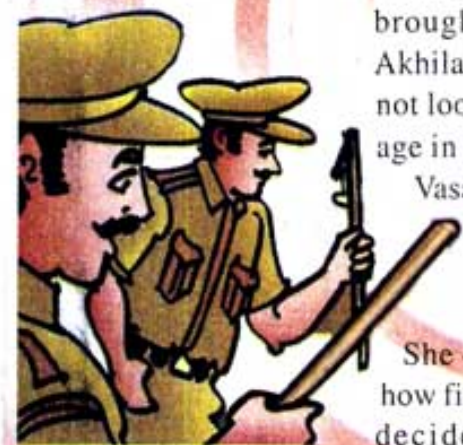
The old woman brought up Baby Akhila. The old woman, as she grew older, could not look after her. She left Akhila at an orphanage in the city and soon passed away.

Vasantha, the mother, a famous film star, while Akhila the twelve year old child in an orphanage...

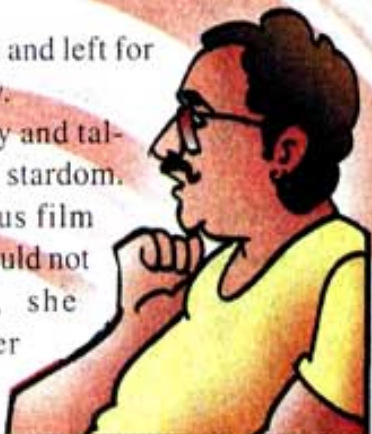
Like her mother, Akhila was a brave girl. She did not like the orphanage. 'I will somehow find my mother', she pledged to herself. She decided to escape. Her friend in the orphanage stood by her. Both of them ran away. But fate again played a cruel role. They met with an accident and were hospitalised.

Akhila was not badly injured but her friend was.

Now, read on...



handed over the tiny baby to an old neighbour who was fond of her and promised to look after her. She also gave the old lady her gold chain and requested her to bring up her daughter. "God will help me. I will return soon and reclaim my



In the hospital...

Forgive me, Akhila, I never thought our plans would end like this. Your life also...

Don't talk like this. I was also eager to get away.

That kid can't escape. She doesn't know that I have found her mother. I will hand her over safely to her mother, but before that her mother will have to pay me a hefty fee to keep her secret.

Thank god! You are not hurt. You must escape, Akhila.

I don't think I can. The manager of the orphanage Dandapani is outside seeking permission to meet us...

God! What will you do now?

I don't think I can find my mom...

Sh...! Don't worry. Ask that man to come here.

Do us a favour. We'll pay you Rs.50, okay?

sure!



Chennai studio: Vasantha
with her attendant

The caller
did not give his name.
He only said, "your
child is fine."

How is it possible,
Malini?

Akhila's only aim was to quickly get
away from Dandapani.

Seated in a bus...

Hey girlie! You can't carry pups
on the bus. The conductor will ask you
to get off.

Laddu! I can't part with you...
Yet I have to get away from
Dandapani.

I've got to hide my
Laddu.



Laddu, be good. Hide in here. Don't make noise.



At the next stop...

Oh, god! Hope Laddu doesn't growl...



Oh, no! Police! I should get off here.



Her copassenger too hastily gets off. Akhila is horrified...

Sir, Sir please. In your case, my...



The information we got was right. The fat man is running away with the suitcase... Catch him!

To be continued

Have you enjoyed setting up your dollhouse when you were little or putting up a fish tank with add-ons to give it that 'effect?' Well, you could actually plan the interiors of real houses and decide on the right combination of



texture, colour, lighting etc to give the place its 'look'. The simplest of

commercial and residential. Within these two broad categories, you could further specialize for example in designing restaurants, hospitals, hotels, etc.

Nature of work

Being part of the service industry, your success as an interior designer depends on how satisfied the client is with the end result. Hence your first task as an interior



CREATING BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS

things could make a place look lovely depending on how they are utilised and combined. The flip side also is true. Sometimes the most expensive and elaborate things could not be pleasing to the eye if they are 'out of place' and not tastefully done. It's all about design!

Be it the dress you are wearing or the chair you most probably are sitting on while reading this article, there is an element of design involved. There are various categories under design. What we will be discussing today is designing of interiors or a career as an interior designer.

As an interior designer, you could work on a wide range of settings,

designer would be to understand the need of the client, the clients' taste, what is the budget allocation, what purpose is the space going to serve etc. To plan what can be done, you would have to first study the existing set up, that is know the exact dimensions of the place, acoustics, suitable electrical fittings, what are the restrictions or codes followed in that area or building etc.

Understanding the requirements of the client is the starting point. From there on, you will be working with architects, contractors and other service providers to translate the plan from paper to real life. The colour scheme, fabrics, lighting, furniture, layout,

Offered by Careersindia

displays etc are areas that you would be advising the client on. Knowledge of the various options available and the source are essential to make an informed decision. Meeting deadlines, working on many projects at the same time, making presentations to prospective clients, are all part of the profile of an interior designer.

Skills Required

Thus, as an interior designer what is required is artistic skills, technical skills and good interpersonal and management skills.

Artistic, creative, imaginative, aesthetic sense and self-confident should be adjectives that describe you. Numerical skills are essential as calculations are involved. The ability to sketch is also required, as the initial plan has to be sketched and shown to the clients.

Qualification

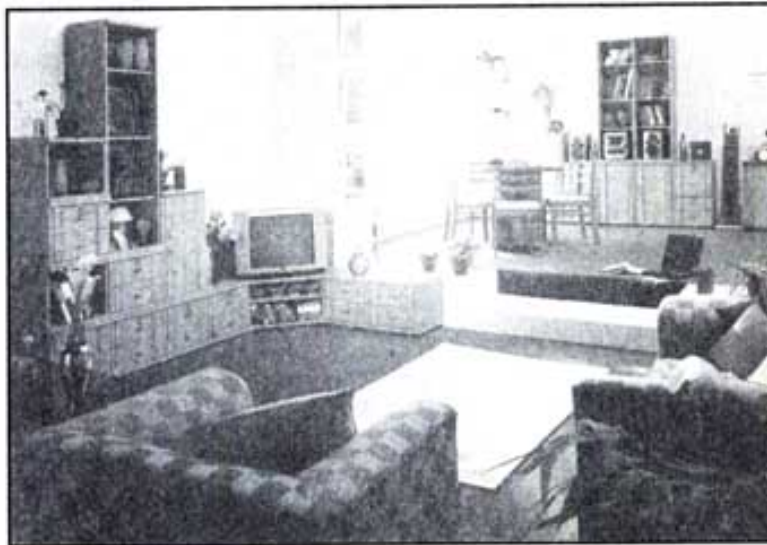
The duration of courses in Design varies from one to five years. After 10+2, you can opt for a degree or diploma course. Extensive courses are also offered by institutes like the National Institute of Design. These institutes provide both theoretical and practical

training. Basic design, architecture, materials, acoustics etc are all taught in these courses.

Future prospects

An internship with a design firm is an excellent way to build your skills. It will give you an opportunity to demonstrate your talent and make job contacts. You could then work with interior design firms, as a consultant, and with builders or contractors.

Interior designing is an art of planning and arranging different elements of an interior so as to



convey the twin aims of beauty & utility.

**NEXT MONTH:
PUBLIC RELATIONS**
Feedback to:
gokulam@careersindia.com

Raja had started sweating.

"I should have stayed inside the house," he said, to Viz. But now it was too late. His mother had told him to take care of the house while she went down the street to buy some vegetables.

"Stay indoors and keep the door closed. Don't open, whoever rings the bell. And you don't come out, because if the door bangs shut, then we will all be locked out," she had warned. Their door was an auto lock door that most flats have these days.

It was just Raja's luck that the early deepavali cracker sounded down the road, and Raja just had to take a look to find out who was bursting it. And the door banged shut, just as amma had predicted!

I wish there was some magic by which I could just touch the door and it would open, he said. He was "talking" to Viz, a little speck of silicon dust, that stored so much knowledge and could "communicate" and read Raja's thoughts.

"There is," said Viz. "Many film stars and businessmen in Delhi and Mumbai already have it"

"Have what?" Raja was under tension, but curious.

"A door that opens when they touch it." Said Viz.

"How does it happen? Don't tell me there is some magic trick or something..."

"Not magic. Only some technology...an optical scanner and some software can do the trick."

"The optical scanner has photosensitive cells and can map the ridges and valleys in your fingerprint. When the scanner is installed, each member of the household is fingerprinted and their prints are stored by the software. Every time a family member comes in, the software quickly

MAGIC

scans his or her finger print and matches it against the prints in the "database" or its collection of prints."

"But where does it store all that information? Will there be a big computer that sits behind the door?" asked Raja.

"Good question, Raja," said Viz, congratulating him. "There is a computer. And then there is a small remote device. The "remote" device means, like your TV remote, something that is away from the main set. The "remote device" or the sensor is put behind the door. It is the size of a cigarette pack. On the front of the door there is a small rubbery door bell like piece and behind the door is the remote device. When you press on "door bell"

this captures your fingerprint. The small box behind relays it to the computer."

"And where will the computer be? What if it is not switched on?" Raja asked. Raja is a boy full of questions. Lucky he had Viz. Parents usually did not know half the answers and even if they did, they were too busy to explain. And sometimes hated to admit that they did not know.

"The company that makes it will tell

you how much distance there can be between the base unit and the sensor. And unless you want it so, the "computer" is not like your desktop PC. It is a compact piece that has a processing chip, storage space for all the information, and the software and is about the size of three pencil boxes put together. This always remains switched on," explained Viz.

"Though this is one type of fingerprint door bell, there are other technologies, other combinations, (some can set off alarms if the wrong person tries the door, scanners can also be attached to computers or sensitive equipment) other objects of identification such as the iris of your eye..."

Even as Viz was explaining, Raja's mother came in at the gate. Raja started with a sad face "Amma... I am sor.." But his mother smiled. "Thank god I took a key with me, and had not left it on the kitchen shelf. Come, let us go in.." she said.

KEYS



We know Krishna and Arjuna were dear friends. Every time Krishna helped Arjuna and Arjuna was very devoted to him. But do you know, there was once a war between them? Here is how it came about.

Once Krishna was returning from

behead you."

Sevakram turned pale! What will he do now? He prayed to Gods Indra, Brahma and Lord Shiva. All of them said the same thing. "I can do nothing against Krishna. Sorry."

The dejected Sevakram, then met Narada, the wise sage and told him his



THE KRISHNARJUNA WAR

a bath in the Yamuna. An attendant, Sevakram passing by urgently, splashed some muddy water on him, by mistake. Unfortunately Krishna got angry and roared, "whosoever you may be; I will

story. Narada smiled and gave him an idea.

Sevakram ran to Arjuna to seek his protection. Arjuna promised to do so. Then he asked him who had threatened

him. The man announced that it was Krishna and told him what had happened.

The Pandavas were shocked. Krishna was more than a friend to them. But Arjuna had promised. So all of them got ready to protect the man.

Subadhra was asked to mediate. Her brother was bent on killing Sevakram. But her husband was equally adamant in saving him from Krishna's wrath.

Krishna declared war. But Arjuna was ready to face it. A great war ensued. Men from both the sides were killed.

At last, Krishna took his Sri Chakra. Arjuna was not afraid. He had 'Pasu patastra' the Astra of Lord Shiva.

All the Gods were scared. They began to plead with Krishna as well as Arjuna. But both of them refused. The universe started trembling.

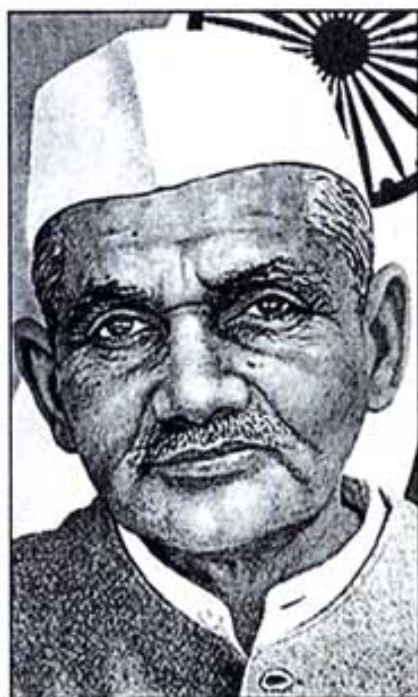
Brahma the creator of the world came. He told Arjuna to let Sevakram go. But Arjuna never relented.

As a compromise Arjuna let Sevakram go on condition that Brahma would join his head again. Krishna killed him. Brahma joined his head with his body immediately. All the Gods heaved a sigh of relief.

Thus Arjuna kept his promise by saving the man's life.

**- Dilip Balasubramanian, aged 12,
The South Indian Association
School, Mumbai**

SOLUTION TO SPOT IT RIGHT - 10



Lal Bahadur Shastri

CONGRATULATIONS!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Mano Subhashini,
Std V, Carmel School,
Port Blair
2. Preksha G.Pai, Std VII,
Little Rock Indian School,
Udupi
3. Asha I. Hegde, Std VI,
Saraswat Vidyalaya, Bardez,
Goa
4. Ramya Ramaswamy, Std V,
Choithram, Indore
5. Vishakha Shaw, Std VII, Julien
Day School, Kalyani, West
Bengal

Lakshadweep, a cluster of colourful islands is an emerging tourist spot of South - East Asia. It is a visual treat for someone standing on one of the islands because stretching to the farthest horizon are the sparkling waters ranging from the palest aquamarine and turquoise to the deepest sapphire in which lie undisturbed the colourful marine life.

The only sound on the islands is from the sea lashing against the shore in an almost rhythmic beat. This combined with the soft breeze and breath-taking view makes a person on Lakshadweep feel as if he or she is in another world, altogether untouched by

and they even speak the same language except in the island of Minicoy where Mahl is spoken.

Lakshadweep is located to the south - west of India. The islands are about 220 - 440 kms away from Kochi in Kerala. One can travel by boat from Kochi to these islands. These islands are



pollution and filth.

Due to geographical nearness to the Malabar coast, the people of these islands are similar to the Kerala folk

a geographic extension of the Maldives island chain.

Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks. The atolls poised on submarine banks harbour 36 islands having a total area of 32sq.km. Of these only 10 islands are open for tourism.

COLOURFUL ISLANDS



which are:- Agati, Amini, Andrott, Betra, Chetlat, Kadmath, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kittan and Minicoy. Almost all these islands have their own special features.

The Kalpeni atoll has a huge bank of coral debris along the eastern and south - eastern coastlines, for which it is famous. Kalpeni is also famous for its three beautiful islets:- Tilakkam, Pitti and Cheriyam.

Kavaratti island is the headquarters of the UT administration. Kadmath has

two lagoons while all other islands have only one! In Agati islands, one finds the airport. Bangaram island is known as the jewel of Lakshadweep and is uninhabited except for occasional neighbourly visitors from Agati island.

The island of Minicoy is the most unique island. A lighthouse built by the British in 1885 stands on this island and visitors are permitted to climb to it's very top! Another feature of this island is the unique village system called 'Athiris'. Each 'Athiri' is a cluster of houses which is headed by a chief called 'mooppan' who is in charge of village affairs.

Thus, though the islands have very similar features, each of them has one special attraction and visiting them is an experience unmatched....

**- R. Rachna, Std IX,
Vidya Mandir, Chennai**



LAKSHADWEEP

Gokulam's very special Diwali gift to its young readers! Here is a game for two players. Cut out the box given below and paste onto cardboard. Cut them into 20 squares and put them into a carton.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	0
1	2	3	0	x
1	2	0	x	x

Similarly, cut out the red and green crackers (on Pg-40-41, Centrespread) You will have 24 pieces each of red and green crackers. Stick the game (rest of the centerspread) on a card board. Your board game is ready.

How to play:

One player chooses red crackers and

the other, green crackers. After shaking the carton well, each player picks a square, with eyes closed, from it.

Read the number. The player gets to place that many crackers on the dif-

his crackers on the board.

If one picks 'O', miss a turn. If you pick 'X' remove 4 of your crackers from the board.

Pick squares alternately until the

CRACKERS

carton is empty. The player who has the greater number of crackers on the board is the winner.

Go ahead. Play 'CRACKERS' and have a 'HAPPY DIWALI'!

Note: Do not replace the squares in the carton once they have been picked by a player.



ferent illuminations on the board. For eg. if one player picks 5, she can place five of her crackers on the board. If the other player gets 1, he can place one of

Centrespread
**DIWALI
BOARD GAME**

SAVE LIVES!

HHeart attacks are common nowadays even among people in the 25 to 30 age group. This is due to change in lifestyle; stress, eating habits, lack of exercise etc.

An executive was driving home after a hard day at work. Suddenly he experienced severe chest pain radiating into the arms and up into the jaw. He was only five miles from the nearest hospital but couldn't make it that far because he did not know how to perform CPR on himself!

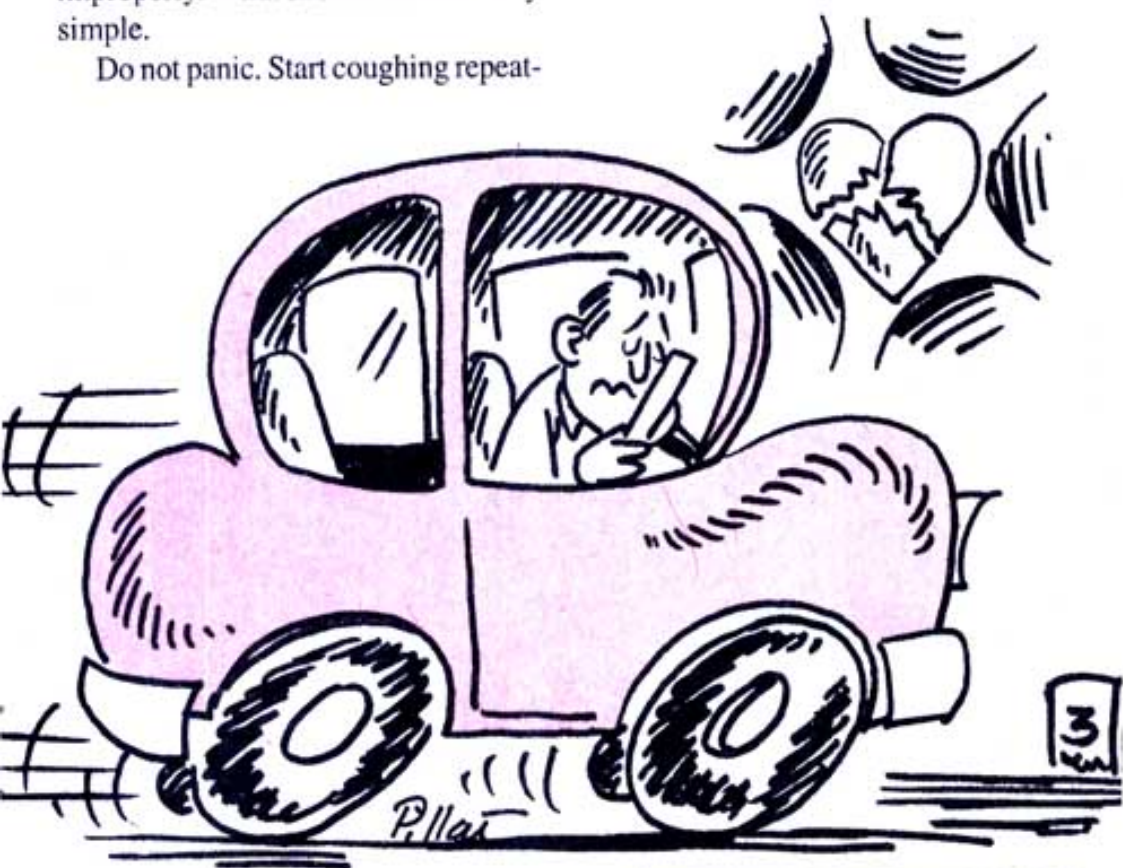
A person has only about 10 seconds before losing consciousness when he is feeling faint and the heart is beating improperly. What should one do? Very simple.

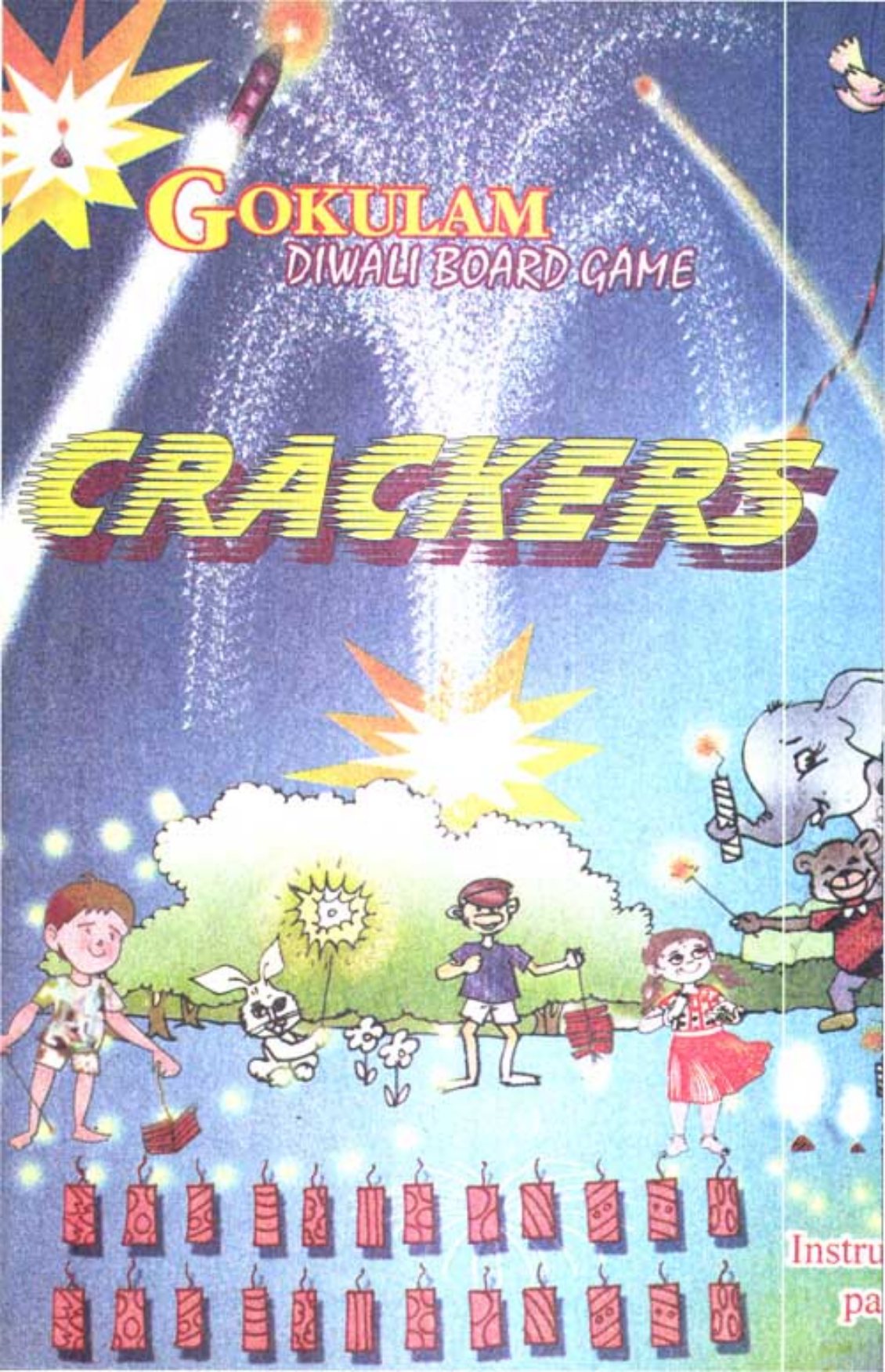
Do not panic. Start coughing repeat-

edly and vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough. A breath and a deep, prolonged cough every two seconds will sustain the person until help arrives or the heart beat gets back to normal.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing squeezes the heart to keep up blood circulation and normal rhythm. Thus the victim of a heart attack can save his own life!

- Sivasailam Lalitha,
Vellore

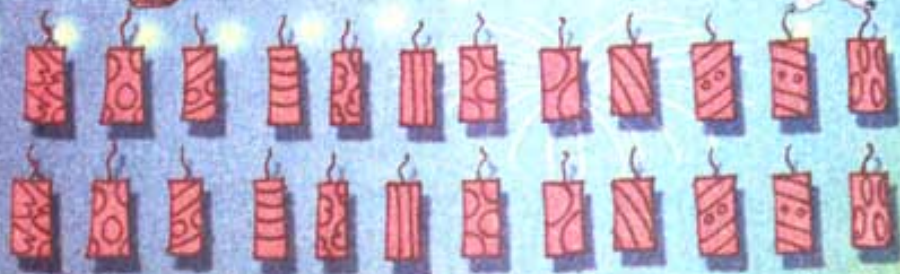




GOKULAM

DIWALI BOARD GAME

CRACKERS



Instru
pa



● P.S.Evangel, Vishakapatnam

? I am in Std.VIII and am very fat and short (Wt.46Kgs, Ht.4' 8") I would like to be tall and slim. Kindly suggest some medicines.

! The most important cause for obesity in your case could be heredity. Other causes could be a high-fat



diet, frequent snacks and lack of exercise. Decrease in thyroid hormone secretion could also result in obesity. First find out the cause in your case. Consult your family doctor and then get treated. A very low calorie diet and regular exercises would help you reduce body weight. Walking or jogging every morning should help you to become slim. Medicines will not help you in any way to become tall or slim.

● Meenu Bassa, Pondicherry

? How are pimples caused? Can

they be cured?

! Pimples occur because of excessive oil in the skin. The upper layer of the skin contains numerous open pores and the middle layer contains sebaceous glands. These glands secrete an oil called sebum. Usually sebum helps in keeping the skin soft and supple. But at the onset of puberty due to increase in sex hormones, the androgens, in particular, sebaceous glands start secreting more sebum which the body tries to excrete through open pores.

These pores now become clogged with hardened sebum. The tip of the clogged sebum which is exposed to air turns black. It is called "black heads". The swelling of skin around these black heads results in pimples. Sometimes pimples contain pus due to infection. Pimples can be treated with

HEALTHY



anti-pimple cream along with appropriate antibiotics.

Here are some ways to control pimples:

1. Keep the face clean always. Wash your face with soap and lukewarm water as often as possible.
2. Do not use face powders, talcs or creams frequently.
3. Avoid non-vegetarian food, sweets, butter, creams, cakes, ice creams, chocolates, puddings, meat and eggs.
4. Increase intake of greens, spinach and other vegetables.
5. Don't touch the pimples often.
6. Drink plenty of water.
7. Take your doctor's advice on the medication to use on pimples.
8. Don't use the creams prescribed in advertisements.

● **Huzefa B., Chennai**

? I have a problem with my tonsils.

DIETS

I have visited several doctors yet the problem persists. Could you suggest some permanent (ayurvedic?) cure?

! 'Tonsil' is a small mass of lymphoid tissue. There are two rounded masses situated on either side of the throat. They play a vital role in the immune reaction of the body, especially in the

first five years of life. They give protection against the ingested and inspired bacteria by producing antibodies. Sometimes a bacterium called beta haemolytic streptococcus invades the tonsils and causes infection and inflammation resulting in the condition called "tonsillitis". The classical features of acute tonsillitis are pain in the throat, difficulty in swallowing, fever and ear pain, usually lasting at least four or five days. Taking proper antibiotics and analgesics will cure acute tonsillitis. For chronic tonsillitis as in your case, surgery is the only permanent cure.



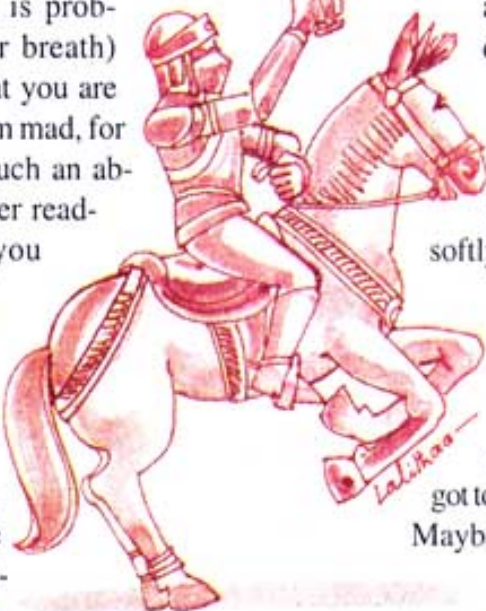
Preventive steps for tonsillitis are as follows:

1. Keep your mouth, teeth, tongue, ear, nose and throat clean.
2. Use potable water always.
3. Avoid cool drinks, ice creams and cool beverages.
4. Eat a well balanced diet daily.

I was recently browsing a HP fan site (www.mugglenet.com, to be precise, when I came across an article, about the character who dies in the seventh book (not Harry or Voldemort.)

The character who dies in the seventh book is probably... (Hold your breath) RON! (I know that you are all thinking that I'm mad, for even suggesting such an absurd thing, but after reading this article, you might believe it.)

We all know that JK hides clues about future books in the previous books, so let us consider the clues, she has already given.



white queen smashed him to the floor and dragged him off the board, where he lay quite still, face down."

What if, the knight was Sirius and the white queen is Bellatrix?

Maybe JK was giving us a clue about Sirius's death in the future.

Next, "The white queen turned her blank face towards him. 'Yes...' said Ron softly, 'it's the only way... I've got to be taken.'"

'No!' shouted Harry and Hermione.

'That's chess!' snapped Ron. 'You've got to make some sacrifices!'

Maybe here, JK is trying to tell us that Ron will be killed by

POTTER CONJECTURE

Clue 1: In Book 1, in the chess game Ron becomes a knight and the trio play against the faceless, white chess pieces. Consider the following sequence (page 205)

"Their first real shock came when their other knight was taken. The



Bellatrix in Book 7.

Clue 2: In Book 5, after their OWL divination exam, Ron says to Harry, "from now on, I don't care if my tea leaves spell 'die, Ron, die', I'm just gonna chuck them in the bin, where they belong."

We all know now that when Ron jokes about something, it usually comes true. Moreover, in the



Harry about using the unforgivable curses? Something about WANTING to cause pain, to really mean it? Maybe Bellatrix murders Ron, Harry loses his head completely (he's already lost his parents and Sirius!) and in his

fury, kills Voldemort in the end (Remember, in Book 4, where JK lets us know that the thing Harry misses most is Ron?).

Maybe you can think of many more such clues.



book, these words were in italics. Maybe JK was giving us another clue.

Clue 3: Consider Trelawney's prediction, 'One cannot live while the other survives.' This obviously means that either Harry must kill Voldemort or vice versa. Let's assume that good triumphs over evil and Harry vanquishes Voldemort. However, Harry doesn't seem capable of murder, right?

Remember what Bellatrix told



Do share them with all the Gokulam HP Fans!

- Mithila Ananth,
Std XII, Bangalore

(All the thoughts appearing in Pottermania pages of "Gokulam" are a mixture of facts and conjectures. We request our readers to bear this in mind.)

- Editor

LUCKY ESCAPE

(MIS)ADVENTURES!

One morning, during our summer vacation I left for Munnar with my friends. I hadn't eaten since morning. Around 11.am, I must have nodded off to sleep.

Within fifteen minutes, suddenly we found our van hurtling down the hill amidst cries for help and shrieks of pain. After a long time the van hit a huge rock and came to a halt.

We were all shocked and bruised although none of us were seriously injured. We could not walk though. Fortunately a Greek gentleman who had witnessed the accident came to our res-



cue. He administered first aid.

In the meantime, some people from the 'check post' nearby rushed us to a hospital. I will never forget the greek who proved to be a godsend and saved our lives.

- J. Sowmya prabha;
Std IX, Abernia School,
Coimbatore.

SHOWING OFF!

I was eight years old. My friends and I used to play on the merry go round. I liked to 'show off' and impress my friends with my stunts. I would get them to spin the merry go round very fast and jump off the metal seat (backwards). My friends admired my feats and encouraged me.

One day, when I was doing this, I lost my balance and injured my leg. Since the merry go round was going very fast, the shoe clad foot of my friend on the other seat hit my head. I was bleeding profusely.

My friends stopped the merry go round and rushed me home. Apart from a bad gash on my head, I ended up with a very bad ligament tear in my leg.

Nowadays, I don't try to pull off such stunts!

- Aparna Chandrasekar,
Std VIII, Maneckji Cooper
Education Trust School, Mumbai

ADVENTURE IN THE WILD

Let me narrate a real life adventure that my family and I experienced at Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.



It is famous for its one horned rhinos which are found in large numbers.

One travels on elephant back through the tall elephant grass. Rhinos do not attack elephants, so you can almost rub shoulders with them. But alas! On the day we arrived all the elephants were being used for a Rhino Census and we had to make do with a jeep with a forest guard as escort.

Having come all the way from Chennai we were disappointed when the guard pointed out grey specks at a distance, while we could barely see them through binoculars. We did not even know whether they were rocks or rhinos!

We begged the

guard to let us get off and walk through the tall grass to spot rhinos at close quarters. After two hours, he relented. While my mom, brother and I were content to see a grazing rhino from a distance, my dad went still closer to take a snap.

Imagine being 150 feet from a wild beast! My dad clicked, the rhino looked up and charged! The guard carried me, ran to wards the jeep and fired into the air. The rhino braked and changed direction, while all of us got back to the jeep. It ran alongside till we left the sanctuary. The encounter lasted only a few seconds, but the shock lasted long.

Do visit Kaziranga, but please do not indulge in such adventures!

- Avantika R.Kannan,
Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary
School, Chennai



THE STORY SO FAR:

Teenagers, Asha and Anil are alone at home in Chennai. Their parents had to rush off to Colombo to look after Granny who had fractured her hip.

The childrens' grand parents had visited them and gifted Asha an heirloom - a diamond jewellery set worth a fortune.

Mike their cousin was on a visit from London. Mike's mother is the children's Aunt Sunitha and his father, Thomas Brite is a British businessman. When the children were at the airport awaiting Mike's arrival, Swapna, a pretty lady befriended Asha. Asha revealed a lot of details about themselves to her.

Mike looked very tense on arrival. Two evil looking men in a white Maruti car chased them on their way back from the airport and again the next day when they went sightseeing. With presence of mind and much effort they escaped.

Asha and Anil suspected Mike. He did not seem to be open with them. They confronted him. He disclosed that his dad's enemies were trying to harm his family. But again, past midnight, Asha

and Anil looked out of their window to see Mike talking to the evil men.

This time, he admitted that the men had kidnapped his dad and were demanding the priceless jewellery as ransom. Swapna was a gang member too.

Swapna entered their house and



INTERNATIONAL ROBBERY

KANTHALAKSHMI CHANDRAMOULI

threatened the children at gun point. She demanded the jewellery. Anil and Asha tricked her into dropping the gun. They even got her to speak to the kidnappers in London to release Mike's dad. They then got Inspector Mary to arrest her and take her away.

Mike continued to worry about his father. The shrill ring of the phone pierced the

silent night.

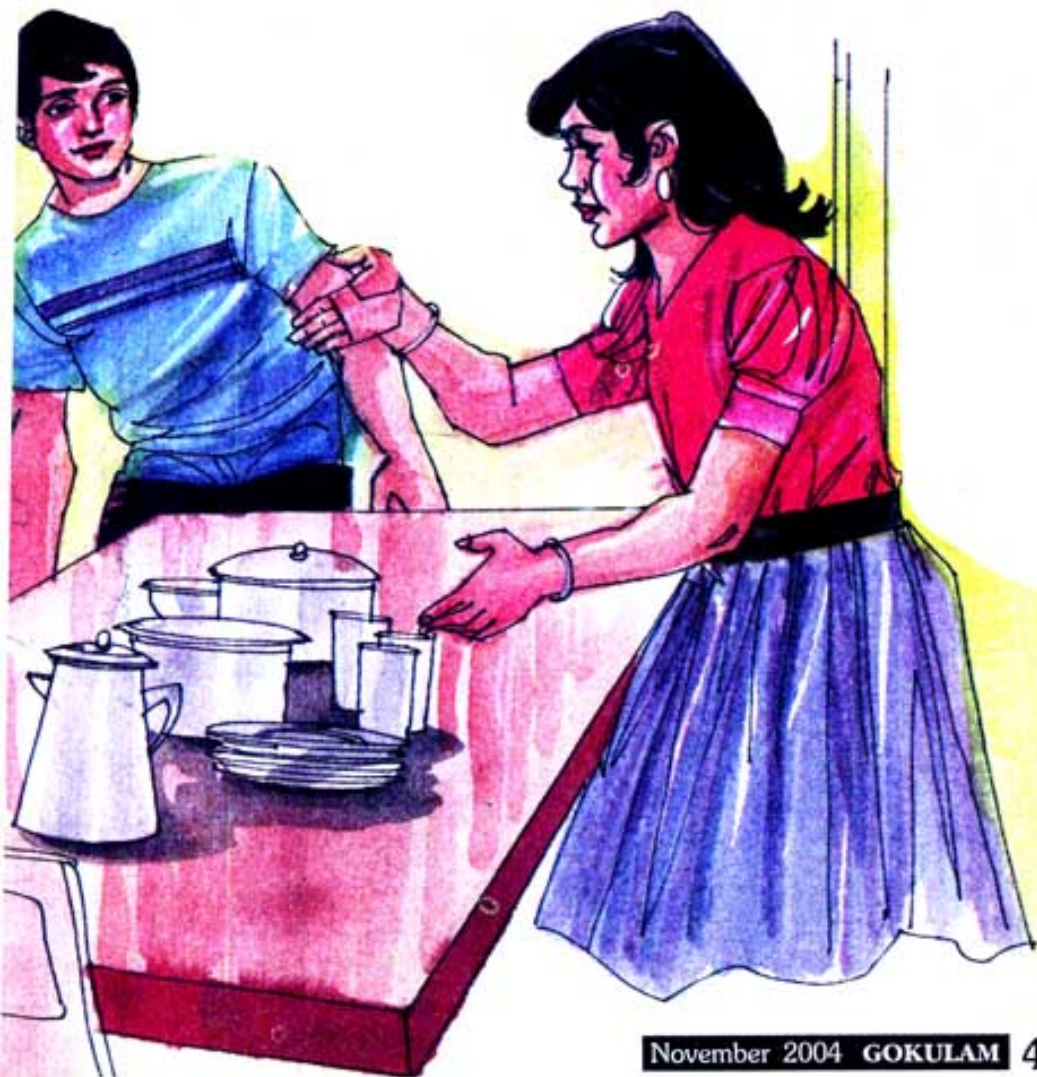
Now read on...

Mike rushed and grabbed the phone.

"Hello! Who's it?"

"Oh, Mike! Your dad hasn't been released yet. I am so worried," cried Aunt Sunitha.

Mike tried his best to re-



assure his mother. After replacing the receiver he gave Anil and Asha the bad news.

"I am sure Inspector Mary will round up the gang soon and your father will be released," said Anil.

"Mark my words. The whole gang will be in jail in two days" reassured Asha.

"We haven't slept all night. Let's catch up on our sleep," said Anil suppressing a yawn.

"I hope dad gets back home soon," worried Mike. "I can rest only after I have spoken to him."

"Mike, you have a lovely British accent. I wish I could speak like you.

Next morning when Anil and Mike came down for breakfast, Asha had South Indian delicacies, Upuma and Vada ready for them.

"Mm... smells delicious," said Mike appreciatively.

"I didn't know you could make vadas," said Anil. "How did you manage?"

"Well, the vadas are from a 'Ready to use' pack," admitted Asha.

"Mike, tell us about London," Anil prompted. "We only know that it is the capital of Britain and a great tourist spot and business centre."

"I'll start with the British Parlia-

ment in Westminster." Mike began.

"Oh yes! Do you think Tony Blair has lost his popularity after the Iraq War? Anil asked enthusiastically.

"No politics please! Or else, no dinner to-

I'd love to visit London too." Asha tried to change the topic.

Mike cheered up. "Why don't you visit us next summer?"

"Yes, we've enjoyed an adventure this summer, we'll have one in London next year." Anil laughed.

night," threatened Asha.

"Okay. I'll go on. The Big Ben clock is right across the Westminster. You must have seen it in the movie '39 steps'. Then there is the London Eye, Trafalgar Square and the lovely river Thames." Mike enlightened his



audience.

"London Eye?" Asha asked wonderingly.

"Yes, through this we can see the whole of London and enjoy the view. Then there is the world famous Madame Tussaud's Wax Work Museum. You can't see such fabulous life like wax models of famous personalities anywhere else in the world." Mike said proudly.

"I believe they've even added models of Amitabh Bachan and Sachin recently" said Asha. "I would like to be photographed with Princess Diana, Jacqueline Onassis, Queen Elizabeth... and..." Asha was very enthusiastic.

"London has the best quipped planetarium in the world. I'll take you there. Then we'll see the Tower Bridge, Tower of London, Hyde park and ofcourse, Herods, the haven for shoppers!" Mike continued.

"Tower of London? Isn't that where they imprisoned the nobles who fought the royals?" Anil was curious.

"Edward VIII beheaded his lovely wife Anne there," added Asha knowledgably.

"You both seem to know an awful lot about British history." Mike was amazed.

"After all we were ruled by the



British for over two hundred years! It is the Kingdom where the sun never sets! What about the Royal jewels?" Asha asked Mike. "The Kohinoor diamond, Peacock Throne and so many treasures taken away from India..."

"Oh! Asha, haven't you had enough with one set of jewellery. Safeguarding this one set seems to be a herculean task. Imagine guarding all those treasures!" Anil wondered.

"Scotland Yard takes care of that. They are the world's best police, you know." Mike said proudly.

"The Indian police is equally good. Hey! That reminds me. Our friend Swapna..." Asha shut up abruptly when she saw Anil glare at her. "It's okay, go on Asha," Mike prompted.

The door bell rang. Inspector Mary came in.

"I have some good news and also a bad news for you." She looked at the children gravely.

(To be continued)

A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-5

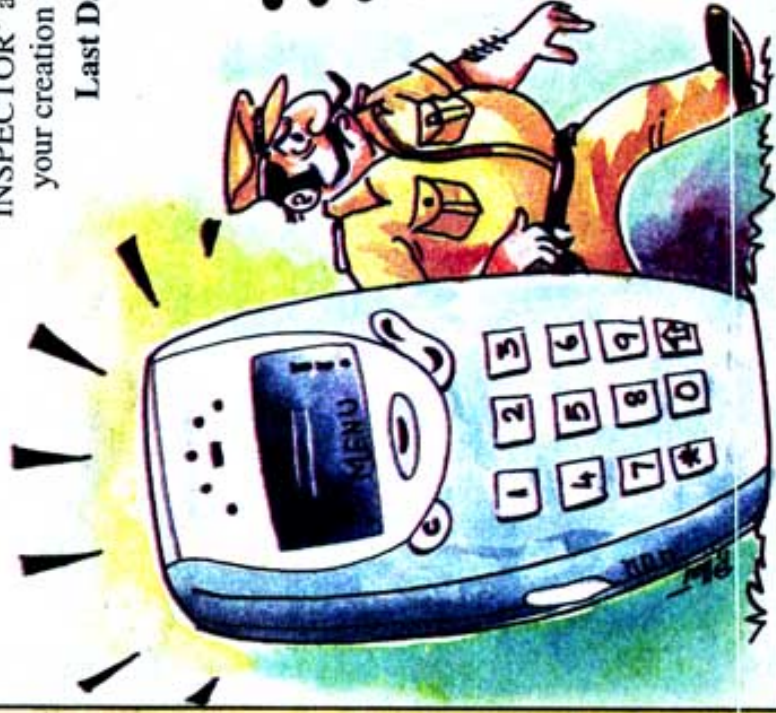
Hey Kids! How about writing a thriller this time? Your story must have an 'INSPECTOR' and a 'MOBILE PHONE' (Cellphone). But remember to limit your creation to 350 words.

Last Date : 20.11.04

Send in your entries to :

Gokulam, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

- The best entry will receive a prize of Rs.100/-.
- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning story will appear in the January 2004 issue of Gokulam.
- Next short story contest announcement December 2004.
- Mention 'short story contest' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.



ART GALLERY



↑ M. Pushpak, Std VIII,
Frank Anthony Public School,
Bangalore

↓ R. Arun,
Std VIII,
RVMHSS, Villupuram, T.N.



↓ Prasanna, Std V,
Saradha Matriculation School,
Gingee



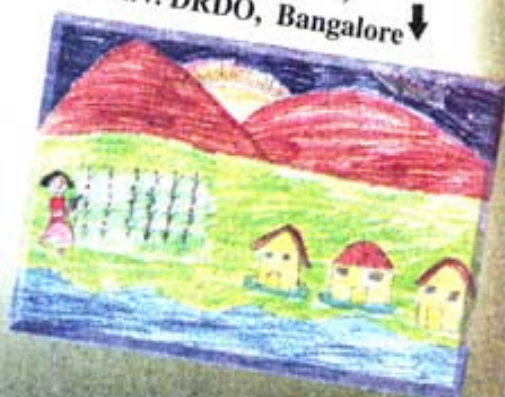
↓ S. Siddharth, Std V,
Vedavalli Vidyalaya,
Walajapet



↓ Kavitha S. Varier, Std VIII,
Shreyas High School,
Vadodara

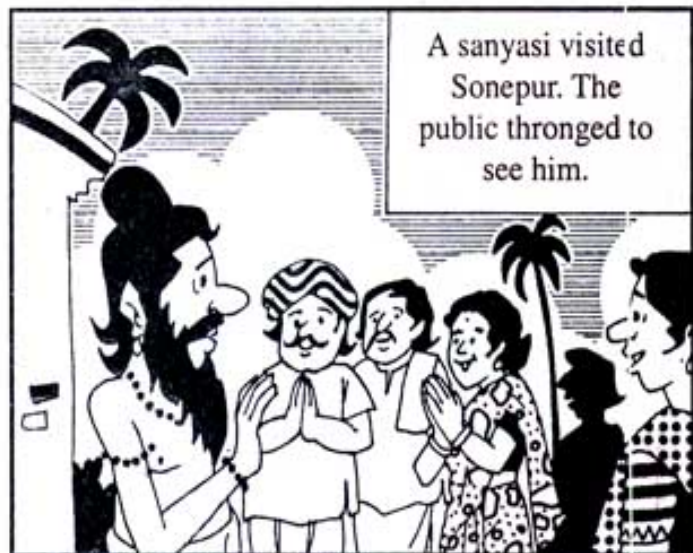


↓ S. Maithreyi, Std I,
K.V. DRDO, Bangalore



COMPARISONS

Story,
Illustration:
Ramki

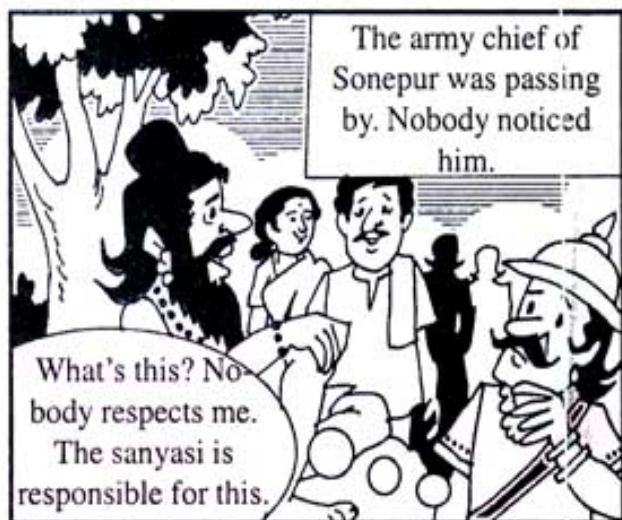


A sanyasi visited
Sonepur. The
public thronged to
see him.



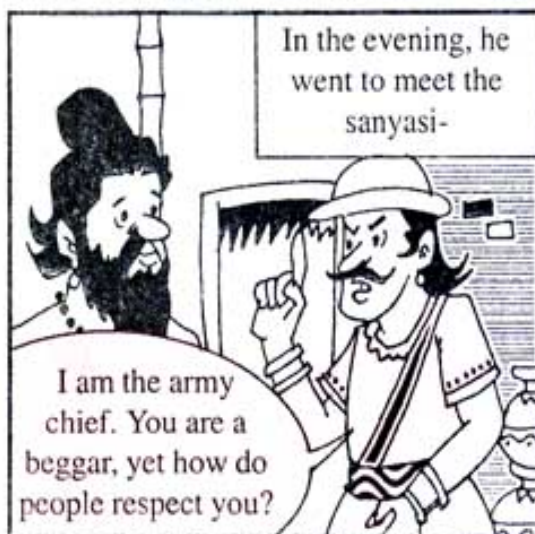
Pranam
swamiji.

Bless you!



The army chief of
Sonepur was passing
by. Nobody noticed
him.

What's this? No-
body respects me.
The sanyasi is
responsible for this.



In the evening, he
went to meet the
sanyasi-

I am the army
chief. You are a
beggar, yet how do
people respect you?



Don't be angry,
my son! Come
let us stroll in
the garden.

The army chief
followed the
sanyasi.

In the garden, the sanyasi pointed to the sky.



What is that?

Everyone knows. It is the moon.



Okay. Now what is this?

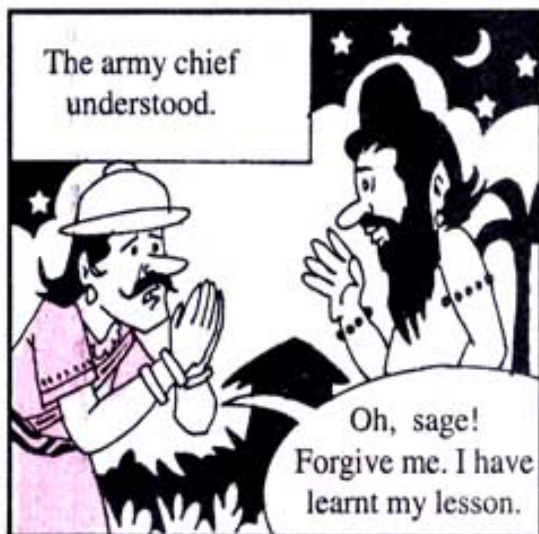


This is a rose.

Has the rose ever compared itself with the moon? Or, would the moon have felt jealous of the rose? The rose is beautiful, so is the moon.

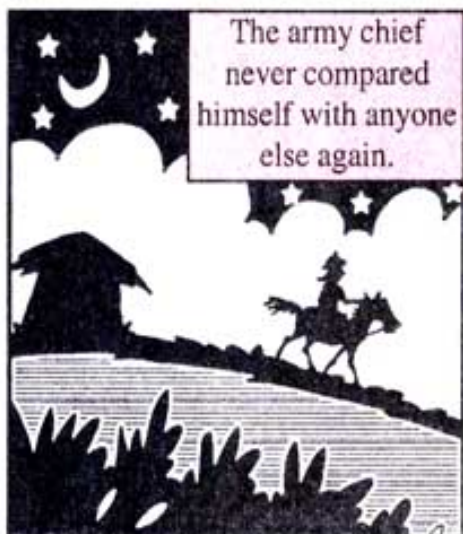


The army chief understood.



Oh, sage!
Forgive me. I have learnt my lesson.

The army chief never compared himself with anyone else again.





SPOT IT RIGHT

Rules and Regulations

11

- Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed picture and answer accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 14.11.2004

Assemble the six scrambled jigsaw pieces to complete the picture and write the answer.
Hint : 'Melody Queen.'

ANSWER : _____

*Local address is a must for overseas entries.

Name : (Mr/Ms)

Age : Class

School :

*Residential Address :

.....Pin

Signature :

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.



Mother: I am going shopping. When I return I don't want to see that messy room of yours.

(Later) Ram: You won't have to see my messy room.

Mother: Good, so you've cleaned it?

Ram: No. But I've locked the door!

- Anson Mathew,
St. Thomas Boy's School,
Kolkata



Judge: What is your offence?

Thief: I was shopping.

Judge: Shopping is not an offence.

Thief: Actually, the shop was not open at that time!

- S. Ashok, Vishakapatnam



Beggar: I am the author of the book. "One Hundred ways to earn money."

Business man: Then why are you begging?

Beggar: This is one of the hundred ways.

- S. Prudivya,
Holy Cross Kapa,
Chattisgarh.



Shyam: Did you have brinjal curry today?

Ram: How did you know?

Shyam: Some brinjals were missing from our kitchen garden.

- J. Jane Eyre, Std IX, Cuddalore



LIGHTER MOMENTS

CHILD'S PLAY

Retold by: Sachin Chitpur, Gulbarga
Illustration : Pillai

Birbal was once late for court.



Silly excuse. Pacifying a child is child's play.

Well, then Oh king! I'll be the child, you be the father. Now pacify me.

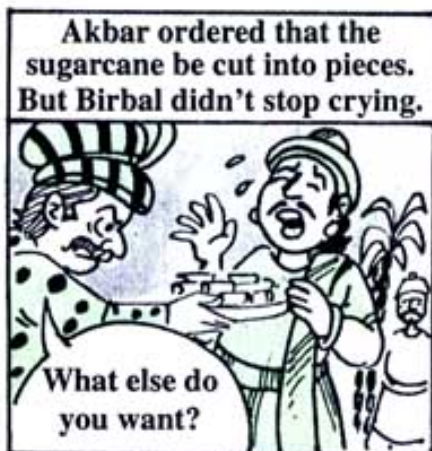
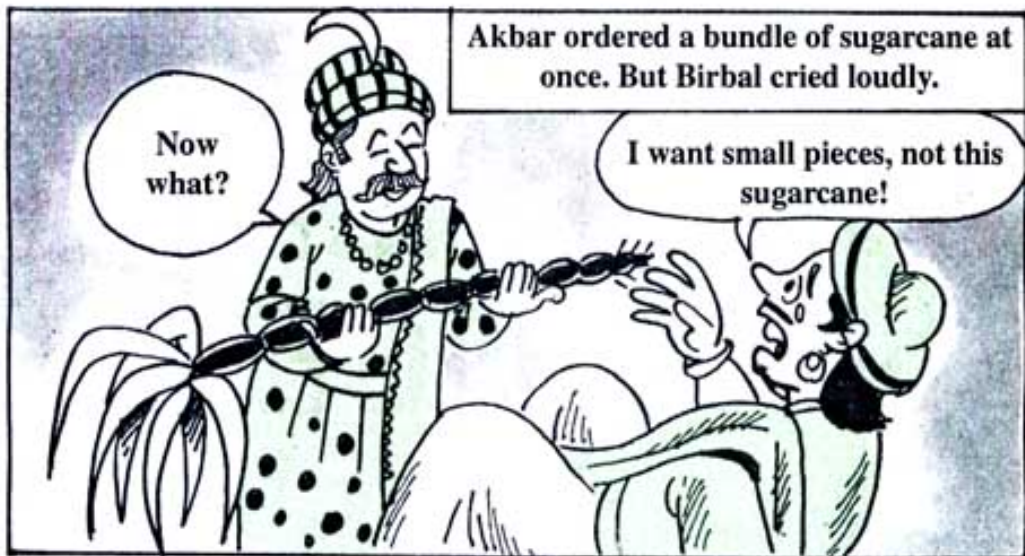


Birbal started howling.

Baby, don't cry. Tell me what you want... toys, sweets... tell me.

I want only sugarcane.





WISecRACKS & SOBRIQUETS

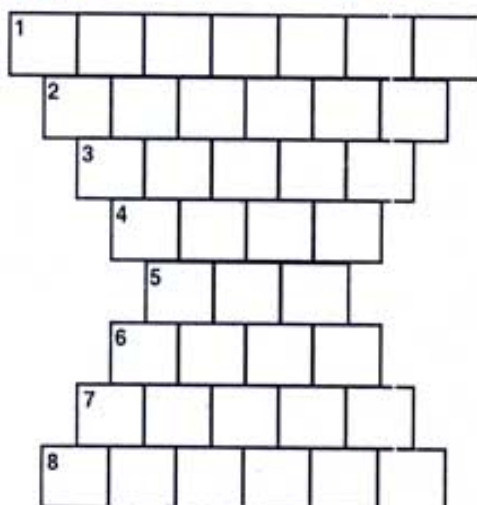
I Funny Riddles

1. Birds found in Portugal.
2. Sports loving insect.
3. Under dressed Cricket team.
4. A black car moving on a white road.
5. The witch went to the beach to eat this.
6. During the day, baby ghosts go to this place.
7. Airplanes were not invented by them.

- Niharika Dahake, Std IX,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Chennai

II WORD PUZZLE

To get the answers, you may REMOVE a letter from the previous answer as you work down wards from 1 to 5 From 5 onwards you may ADD a letter to each answer. You may have to move round the letters, if necessary.



1. Animated film (7)
2. Cardboard box (6)
3. One who acts (5)
4. Layer of paint (4)
5. A pet? (3)
6. A friendly talk (4)
7. Instruct (a lesson?)(5)
8. Plays unfairly (6)

- B. Prathibha, Std VIII,
Indira Priyadarshini Girls
High School, Bangalore

III SOBRIQUET JUMBLE

Sobriquets are names substi-

tuted for the proper name.
Can you identify these
sobriquets for some places
with the help of jumbled clues
(given in brackets).

1. Land of the golden fleece -
(SRATAIALU)
2. Cockpit of Europe -
(UIMGBLE)
3. Venice of the East - (CHONIC)
4. Gift of the Nile - (TYEPG)
5. Forbidden city - (HALAS)
6. Land of the midnight sun -
(WYORAN)
7. City of Skyscrapers -
(WYENROK)
8. Britain of the South -
(WEZANADELN)
9. Land of the white Elephant -
(LIAHANTD)
10. Roof of the world - (BITTE)

- Sabarinath S.
Std VIII,

St. Thomas Pub-
lic School,
Bangalore



Answers:

- I
1. Portu - 'geese' 2. Cricket 3. 'Vest'- Indies 4. eye
5. Sandwich 6. Day 'scare' centre 7. Wrong Brothers (not wright Brothers)
- II
1. cartoon 2. carton 3. actor 4. coat 5. cat 6. chat
7. teach 8. cheats
- III
1. Australia 2. Belgium 3. Cochin 4. Egypt 5. Lhasa 6. Norway
7. Newyork 8. New Zealand 9. Thailand 10. Tibet.



"Daisies so pretty!
Parakeets so shcwy!
Cherries so glowy
My own mom so
'rainbowy!'"

He crawled over to mom
And took her by storm
"Tell me the truth Mom,
Where 'd you adopt me from?"

Mother was shocked and
glum,
But told her puny, greeny
gem,
"Son! Wait for one more day,
And see God's divine way!"

**- Akshay Shashikumar,
Std VIII, Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Thripunithura**

THE CATERPILLAR'S SORROW

The tiny voracious eater
Paused awhile to ponder.
When the truth hit him like daylight
He wept and sobbed all night!

THAT'S

LIFE

Life is full of startling colours,
Just like a garden - full of flowers!
Life is sometimes an ocean of sorrows
Which pierce your heart like sharp arrows.
Sometimes life is full of joy,
Like how kids feel while playing with toys.
Life is a mixture of sorrow and joy
Which everyone should try to enjoy!



NAUGHTY PATCH

I went to see a match
Where I saw a dog named Patch.
He was very nice
And ever so wise.

He was so naughty
But, oh! so pretty.
Him I wanted to touch
But he felt 'twas too much
He started to bark
So I fled like a spark.
He chased me
Until I jumped into the sea!

I was soaking wet,
And I began to fret
But I found he hadn't gone yet;
And that's where friendship met!

- D. Indira,
Std VIII, Delhi Public School,
Korba, Chattisgarh

LIFE!



- R.Swati,
Std IX, Dayanand
Vidhyaranya Bharati
Residential English
Med. School
Hubli, Karnataka

"Happy Diwali!" Say it with hand made cards and Jewellery!

GREETING CARD

You will require :

Enamel paints of different colours.

Thick card board

Half a bucket of water

A thick brush

Procedure :

To half a bucket of water, add 10 - 15 drops of enamel paint using the thick brush. (You may use two or three colours). The paint will not mix with water easily. Mix it well such that no big droplet remains on the water (surface).

Fold the cardboard sheet into half and dip it in the coloured water. Move it sideways a little and pull it out. A distinctive pattern will be created on the card.

- P. Sai Deepak, Std.VII,
Sainik School, Korukonda, A.P.

PAPER BEAD JEWELLERY

You will need:

Glossy pictures or designs from magazines (full sheets), a pair of scissors, glue, needle and thread, a ruler, used ballpoint refill.

Procedure:

Take the sheet of paper. On the reverse of the design, draw long triangles with a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch base and about 6 inches in height. Cut out these triangles and spread some glue lightly on the back of the designed side. Roll this tightly around the refills, starting from the base of the triangle and ending at the printed top. Paste the end firmly with glue and remove it carefully off the refill.

Make about fifteen such beads. Thread the beads together to make colorful necklaces, earrings or bangles! Use your imagination to create jewellery using silver foil or

cut up colourful narrow straws and use plastic beads and hand painted paper.

Gift them to your friends or create ones which will match your own Diwali dresses! Have a Happy Diwali!

- Shasya Desai, Aged 14,
Vadodara

FANCY AND DAINITY!



Dear Readers,

Reading is essential to pick up language skills and the more you read the quicker will be your comprehension of what you are reading. I am sure you are reading Gokulam from cover to cover.

Is there any difference in the meaning of the two words 'lawyer' and 'advocate'?

-Asgar Hasan, Thane.

Yes. A lawyer is a person who has studied law. He has the training and the certification to practise law.

An advocate is a lawyer who pleads a cause in a court of justice in favour of someone or defends them in a court of law. The difference between them is that a lawyer need not go to court but advises his client maybe in his own office, whereas an advocate is one who "advocates" or "supports" a particular action in court.

What is the difference between being 'haughty' and being 'arrogant'?

-Bhavya, Chennai.

An arrogant person behaves in a proud and unpleasant way towards other people because he believes that he is cleverer and more important than others. He is aggressively

conceited. A haughty person is proud. It is a word used to show disapproval of the way a person thinks of himself.

Bring out the full meaning of the

Your husband a lawyer? Mine an advocate!



**CONTINENTS
SEPARATED BY
SAME LANGUAGE!**

words: Tired, jaded, wearied, fatigued and exhausted.

- R.Arvinth, Chennai.

Tired, fatigued and exhausted, if you are any of these you would want to 'take a break' or a rest.

Weary. You are tired and you have lost your enthusiasm.

Exhausted. You are very tired physically or mentally, that you have no energy left.

Your list of words may well have

Radha Padmanabhan



she came to India and I showed her my broken tin opener, she laughed and said "Oh you meant a can opener! Why didn't you tell me so?"

The world is shrinking fast, and America is now the world's most powerful nation. With the advent of modern technology, Americanisms will come into usage in all forms of English spoken in different parts of the world. But let me answer your question and tell you the difference in words used in British English and American English.

In America don't ask for a biscuit, ask instead for a cracker, fill your car not with petrol but with gasoline. And of course you don't invite anyone for a film but for a movie. In America you wear pants and not trousers and you play soccer and not football, you walk on the side walk and

been taken from a Thesaurus. Do you know what a Thesaurus is? It is a treasury of words of similar meanings arranged in alphabetical order. Writers use this to find a suitable alternative to a word they want to use. Suppose you want to use other words for the word "pretty", the Thesaurus will give you perhaps a list rather like this :-

Pretty:- appealing, attractive, beautiful, bonny, charming, comely, cute, fair, good looking, graceful, lovely, dainty, delicate and so on.

What is the difference between British English and American English?

- Mudasir Ahmed Changa,
Sopore, J&K

The British and the Americans speak the same language but there are many differences. Shaw made fun of American English saying that "England and America are two continents separated by the same language." Let me tell you an interesting story. My niece from Canada (Canadian English is a little different from both British English and American English) asked me what I wanted from Canada as a gift. I asked for a tin opener. She did not bring it as she did not know what it was. When



not on the pavement and you wear a sweater and not a pullover. Better ask for a napkin and not a serviette.

If you think you are getting confused, what would you make of this? In American English a trillion is actually a billion and a public school is really a private school!

As I write this, India are going through their worst run of form in the last two years. They just about scraped through to the final of the Asia Cup, they didn't qualify for the final at Amsterdam, and the semis in the ICC Champions' Trophy in England. What's more, they suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Australians in the first test match in the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

But still, I wouldn't be too pessimistic. Just as a batsman needs a boundary or two to feel the old juices flowing back after a poor run of form, India probably just needs one or two good sessions.

The problems in the team as I see it, are threefold. In the bowling department, Kumble and Harbhajan are both bowling beautifully, but the pace section is too dependant on Irfan Pathan, who, for all his talent and maturity, is an inexperienced kid. Zaheer Khan, just doesn't look the bowler he was, and Nehra, whose performances in the recent past have been grossly underestimated, is out with an injury.

The batting – now this is the main problem, isn't it? I don't know what magic spell Sachin Tendulkar has on the team. Wonderfully gifted batsmen-Schwag, Laxman, Ganguly who would be match-winners in any other team, look lost and vulnerable without their main man. Except Rahul Dravid. A duck in the first innings, and in the second, he claws his



AUSTRALIA- CHAMPION SIDE!

way back to form. This and Irfan Pathan's gutsy innings are the only two batting positives of the match.

Australia – champion side, eh? Ponting out, Hayden not in form – and they still get 450 plus runs. One cricketer is out, another one replaces him and performs almost immediately. Katich and Clarke have performed... and apparently Brian Hodge, is as good if not better than Clarke. And Martin Love is there too. And the bowling – if possible, even better than the batting. Shane Warne is back to his old tricks, and so is Glenn McGrath, after so many years!

I think it's unfair to compare Indians unfavourably with them. You just stand back and admire them. Can India overcome such overwhelming odds?

Abhinav Ramnarayan

HIYACHI AND LIYANG

Chiyang was wandering in search of a job. He reached the outskirts of a forest.

Don't worry, Son. There is a palace on the other side of the forest. I will get you a job there.

Whew! At last!

He went with the old woman.

There, that's the palace..

Huge...

Both of them entered the fort. Suddenly the old woman transformed...

It looks like a devil's fort

Ha... Ha...

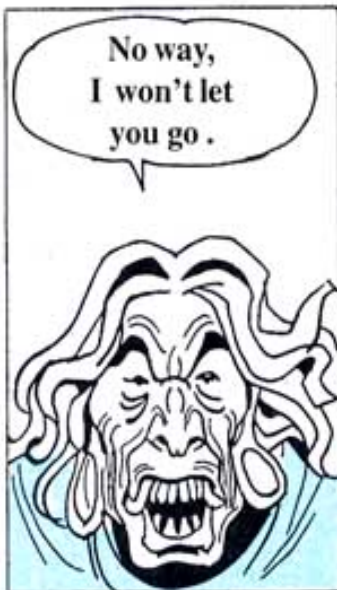
Ha...ha...I am Hiyachi, the demoness who rules this forest.

Oh! please don't harm me.



From now on
you are my
slave.

Please... my
brother will be
alone at home.



No way,
I won't let
you go .



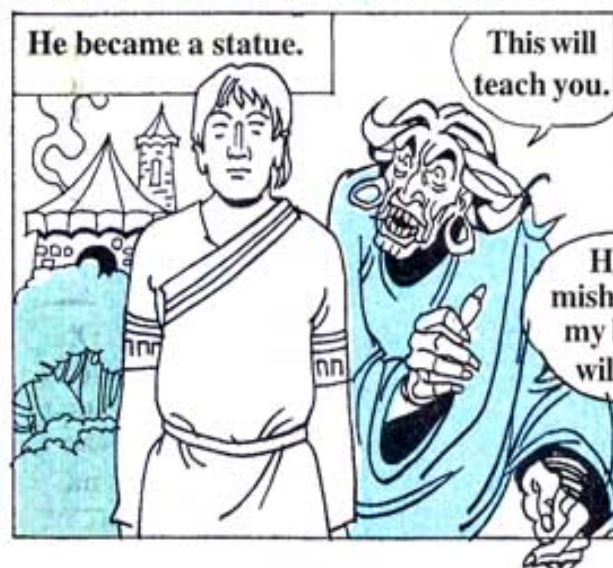
Chiyang tried to escape.

Hey, stop
there



She threw her magic
stone at Chiyang

How
dare
you?



He became a statue.

This will
teach you.



Chiyang's younger
brother, Liyang was
worried as there was no
news of
Chiyang.

Has some
mishap befallen
my brother? I
will find out.

Liyang set off in search of his brother and reached the forest.



This is a devil's fort, can he be here?

Later, Liyang saw the demoness flying. She was wearing her magic slippers.



Oh! she is flying with the help of those slippers.

Before she returns I will investigate the palace.



Inside the palace-

Eh...my brother!



Huh! she turned my brother into stone! I will teach her a lesson.



Liyang hid in a bush with his bow and arrow. Soon-



Here she comes

Next moment Liyang's arrow ripped off Hiyachi's magic slippers.

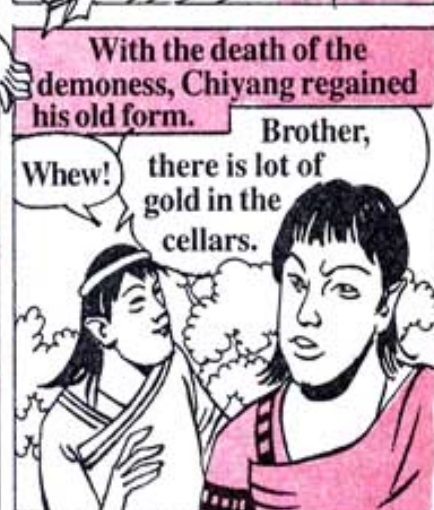


On losing her magic slippers-



With the death of the demoness, Chiyang regained his old form.

Brother, Whew! there is lot of gold in the cellars.



© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

Carrying the gold from the demoness' fort, they got back home and lived happily ever after.



- And that was the end of Hiyachi.

Bang! Boom! Whoosh! Scre...ech! Yes, Diwali is literally arriving with a BANG! Although originally Deepavali started off as a festival with 'rows of lamps' to remove the darkness of evil forces and light up our lives, fireworks became an integral part of the festival. Be it to drive away evil forces (with loud noises) by bursting crackers or lighting up the skies to celebrate the victory of good over evil, fireworks did the job!

Have you ever wondered how and where fireworks were born? A Chinese cook accidentally mixed three ingredients: (Black powder) Salt petre, sulphur and charcoal and lighted it and witnessed colourful flames. He put some of the black powder into the hollow of a bambooshoot and there was a big explosion. Thus, the Chinese became the

metallic salts to make multi-coloured fireworks. In Britain even today, fireworks are set off on Guy Fawkes Day to commemorate their country's most notorious traitor! Guy Fawkes was caught and executed when he was trying to blow up the British Parliament on November 5th

• Guy Fawkes



1603, with 36 barrels of gunpow-



pioneers in the pyrotechnic industry! Incidentally, black powder, was then employed as rocket fuel, as early as the sixth century and these were called chinese arrows!

Europeans perfected the art of making fireworks. In the 19th century, pyrotechnicians began to use a combination of potassium chlorate and various

der. For 400 years now, every year, the British have celebrated Guy Fawkes Day with bonfires and fireworks. (The joke doing the rounds is they don't know whether they are celebrating

FASCINATING FIREWORKS

Fawkes' execution or honoring his attempt to do away with government!)

Back home, in India, children and adults alike have enjoyed lighting fireworks during Diwali, Karthik Purnima

emanating from fireworks are known to affect the health of people all around.

Another disturbing factor is the use of child labour in fireworks manufacturing units. Many children, nowadays register their protest against this practice by dispensing with crackers.

We do not wish to dampen your spirits by warning you off crackers. But here are a few simple dos and don'ts while handling crackers:

1. Store fireworks away from all heat sources in a closed metal box until you use them.

2. Put used sparklers into a bucket of water. The water will come in handy in an emergency too!

3. Light only one at a time and under adult supervision.

4. Wear eye protec-

tion and non synthetic, tight fitting garments while lighting fire works.

5. NEVER try to reignite fireworks that do not go off the first time.

6. NEVER throw fireworks or hold theme in your hands.

Be prepared, be safe.

Keep the emergency numbers handy. In case your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll on the ground. A sand bucket may also be kept as stand by. Have a **SAFE AND HAPPY DIWALI!**

(Kartigai) and 'Guruparb' (Guru Nanak's birthday) also celebrated in November-December every year.

It is a thrilling and joyful experience. (See pictures alongside for latest Diwali fireworks.)

However, of late, many of us have cut off fireworks from the Diwali 'must buy' list.

Increasing awareness about sound and air pollution is one of the major causes. Loud crackers can be very distressing for babies, old and sick people and animals. The government has banned very noisy 'atom bombs' etc., and is trying to regulate the timings for bursting crackers. Similarly polluting gases



1. Nehru wrote letters to his daughter from jail. What was the compilation (book) called?

a. Glimpses of India



b. Kamala

c. Kasthurba

5. When was Jawaharlal arrested for the first time?

a. 1924 b. 1925 c. 1921

6. What is the name of the samadhi of Jawaharlal Nehru?

a. Sakthisthal b. Shanthivan
c. Rajghat

7. When did Chachaji die?

a. May 27, 1964

b. May 27, 1965

c. May 27, 1966

8. What is the name of Pandit Nehru's family home in Allahabad called?

a. Anand Nivas

b. Anand Bhawan

c. Anand Sadan

2. When did Nehru speak these famous words. "Long ago we made a tryst with destiny..."?

a. Jan. 26, 1950

b. Aug. 14, 1947

c. August 14 / 15, 1947

3. How many times was Nehru imprisoned during the freedom movement?

a. 9 times b. 12 times c. 8 times

4. Jawaharlal's father was Motilal Nehru. What was his mother's name?

a. Swarooparani

9. Jawaharlal's sister wrote his biography. What was it called?

a. The Patriot

b. The Statesman

c. With No Regrets

10. Which newspaper did Pandit Nehru help to start?

a. National Herald

b. The Times of India

c. The Hindu

CHACHA NEHRU

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. a 5. c
6. b 7. a 8. b 9. c 10. a

Answers:

An old farmer had an old horse for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills and when all his neighbours sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, 'Bad luck? Good Luck? Who knows?' A week later the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills and this time the neighbours congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, 'Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?'

Then, when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this was very bad luck. Not the farmer, whose only reaction was, 'Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?' Some weeks later the army marched into the village and took into military service every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg they let him off. Now was that good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?



**GOOD LUCK?
BAD LUCK?
WHO KNOWS?**

Everything that seems on the surface to be ill fated may be a blessing in disguise. And everything that seems good on the surface may turn out to be bad. So we would do well to leave it to God to decide what is good luck and what is bad luck and

thank Him. You will find that things turn out for the better for those who love Him.

Retold by K. Anantharaman,
Std XII, Dhanakantharaj
Hr.Sec.School,
Pondicherry

Temple Treasures

Located about 14kms. from Vellore on the Chennai - Bangalore

Maragadambikai this temple was built during the Pre-Pallava period.



highway, Thiruvirinjipuram stands on the southern banks of River Paalar. This

Lord Brahma is said to have worshipped Lord Shiva near the Brahma Theertham here. Shiva appeared before him and granted him a boon that he would reside in the swayambulinga there. Brahma is known as Virinjan and hence the name, Virinjipuram. Lord Vishnu is also said to have worshipped this linga and got the chakrayudha with which he slayed the asura Dundhu. Hence the name Vindupuri. Similarly since Gowri worshipped the Lord here the place came to be known as Gowripuri. A dip in the holy river is considered sacred because all these gods worshipped here.

Set among sylvan surroundings of lush green fields the temple



BRAHMAKSHETRA - VIRINJIPURAM

magnificent temple ranks among the 18 most important Shiva sthalas. Dedicated to Lord Margabandeeswarar (Vazhithunai Nayanar) and his consort

occupies an area of 1,38,700 Sq.ft. The sun's rays fall directly on the deity (linga) in the month of Panguni (Mar.Apr) and so this place is a Bhaskara Kshetram. Arunagiri

Nathar, Appar, Thirumoolar and Appaya Dikshitar have sung in praise of this Lord.

There are three entrances to the temple (on the East, West and North) while on the southern side stands a majestic gopuram. Brahma theertham is located on the south eastern side of the outer prakara of the temple. In the first prakaram is the Simha Theertham where Goddess Gowri is said to have done penance. In the second prakara are the Sooli Theertham and the Soma Theertham (a well). The waters from this well are used for abhishekam of

Vishnu etc and also boasts of a natya mandapam, a 16 pillar mandapam and a 100 pillared mandapam. Inscriptions of several kings like Nandi Vikrama Pallava, Rajendra Chola etc are found in the temple. Several kings seem to have undertaken restoration works over the times. An interesting inscription of the vijayanagar king Devarayan states that taking dowry was a punishable offence! It is said that the Devi's Garbagraha (sanctum) has an underground chamber and that a tunnel from the Vellore Fort Temple leads into it!

The Lord of Virinjiapuram casts his benevolent grace on all who worship him. One may visit this magnificent temple, replete with beautiful sculptures and mandapams and invoke His blessings.



the moortis in the temple. The sthalavriksham of the temple is the palm tree.

The huge temple enshrines Lord Vinayaka, Muruga, Durga,





☒ I was looking forward to a story or pictures of Gandhiji in the October issue and was disappointed. Except for this, I liked the issue very much. Hope you will not forget Chacha Nehru in your November issue.

- **Rashmika D. Prasad,**
Chennai

☒ I am a regular subscriber of Gokulam. Every month I eagerly wait for my copy. Gokulam has helped me to develop my hobbies, namely, reading and writing.

- **Anuridhi Arya,**
Std V, Fathima High School,
Vidya Vihar.

☒ I have been reading Gokulam for the past six years. I like the 'Jokes', 'Experience' and 'Hello Doctor' columns. I love the short stories. I am glad to inform you that I have got many pen

friends through Gokulam.

- **T.C. Archana, age 15,**
SRKBHEL School,
Ranipet

☒ I am studying in a Tarnil Medium School. I am learning English by reading Gokulam regularly. I like it very much and finish reading it in a single day. It is a very useful and fantastic magazine.

- **K.Balaji, age 15,**
Madurai

☒ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. I like it because it is highly informative. I would appreciate it if you could give us a Harry Potter poster / stickers with your future issues.

- **Anshula Madhavan,**
Std VI, St. Joseph's Convents
School, Bhopal

☒ We love Gokulam and eagerly look forward to the next issue. It has helped us to develop our reading habit.

- **Shruti and Sachin,**
Bangalore

☒ I am a regular reader of Gokulam. I sent you an article in June and have been waiting to see my name in Gokulam since then. I agree with Rahul G.S. Reddy (August, Letter Box) that Gokulam should be a weekly and not a monthly magazine.

- **N. Pranathi,**
Medhak, A.P.

SUPERMAN! The mind immediately conjures up images of the super human efforts of Christopher Reeve in "Superman: The Movie" and 'Superman II.' This man was not only a brave man in reel life, but a 'superman' in real life too!

Born in 1952, Chris Reeve loved acting even as a child. He and his brother would climb into cardboard grocery cartons and pretend these were pirate ships. To Chris they were really ships because he said so! He retained this childhood innocence and honed his acting talents to become the finest of actors.

By the age of eight, he was acting in school plays. By nine, he was into professional theatre. Theatre was his home and it was what he did best!

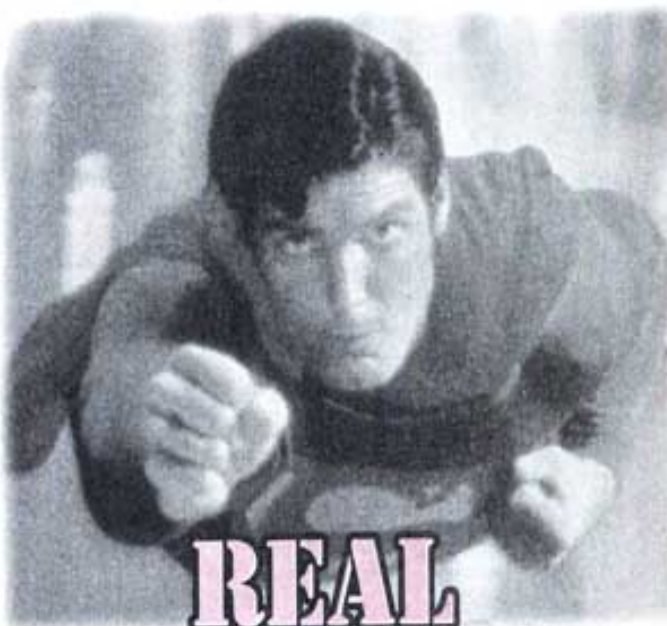
In 1976, he got a small role in 'Gray Lady Down' an adventure film. But as we all know his biggest break was in 1978 with the movie 'Superman.'

As 'Superman', Chris was not only a hero with a lot of power but also a hero with brains and a heart. One could actually relate to him, say, invite him home for dinner.

After Superman, he did three successful sequels before the horrid riding accident that crippled him. Chris Reeve, the Superman in real life then

came to the fore.

With a lot of courage, optimism and determination he battled against total paralysis. He began to recapture use of his body. He became a powerful proponent of causes ranging from insur-



REAL SUPERMAN!

ance reforms to research into embryonic stem cells. He even wrote two books, directed and acted in movies.

'In the Gloaming', the movie directed by him, was nominated for five Emmy Awards. He won the Screen Actors Guild Award (best actor) for his performance in 'Rear Window' (a remake of a Hitchcock classic).

But alas! On October 10th this year he breathed his last. This real Superman will always live in the hearts of millions of fans.

Story &
Illustration
J. Disney

COME ON GUYS,
LET'S PLAY
CATCHING
GAME!

GET
LOST!

CAN'T YOU
SEE WE ARE
WATCHING
TEST MATCH.

I KNOW HOW
TO GET YOU
GUYS....

I'VE TWO
TICKETS
FOR THIS
TEST
MATCH...

...THE ONE WHO
CATCHES ME
CAN ACCOMPANY
ME TO THE
STADIUM!

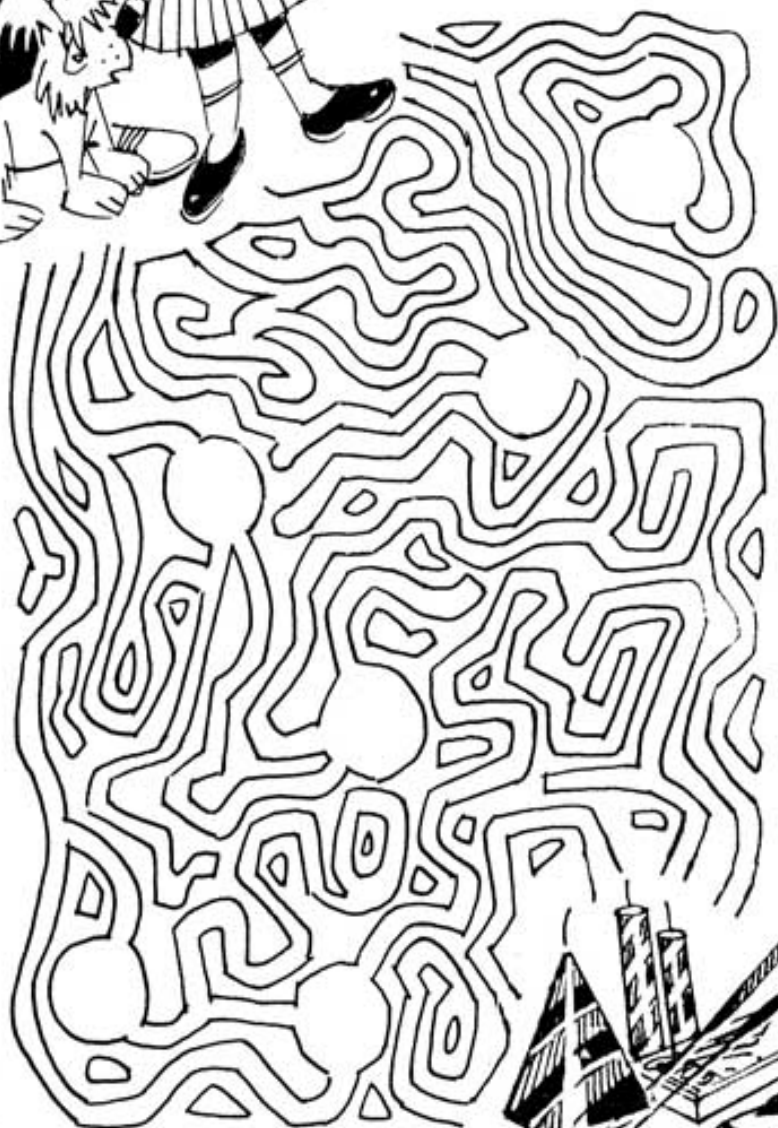
IT'S
FOR ME!

FOR
ME!

NOW
I MADE YOU
PLAY
CATCHING
GAME.



HELP THE CHILDREN FIND THE CRACKERS!





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